



## Operating Engineers Continuing Political Committee

International Union  
of Operating Engineers  
Local 478

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Good afternoon Senator Boucher, Senator Leone, Representative Guerrera Representative Carney and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Nate Brown, and I'm here today on behalf of the Operating Engineers Local 478 an organization that represents nearly 3000 heavy equipment operators and support staff throughout Connecticut. I am here today to request your support of

**Proposed Senate Joint Resolution No. 5 Resolution Proposing An Amendment To The State Constitution Regarding The Special Transportation Fund**

**Proposed Senate Bill No. 560 Proposed House Bill No. 5458 and Proposed House Bill No. 6058 An Act Establishing, Instituting And Concerning Electronic Tolls On Connecticut's Highways**

**Proposed Senate Bill No. 501 An Act Concerning The Construction Of Tunnels For The Interstate Routes 84 And 91 In Hartford Region**

I would like to begin by thanking committee members by raising these important bills to help fund much needed infrastructure repair and by doing so start putting the men and women of Connecticut's construction industry back to work. An abundant amount of ideas have been raised in the past, from tolling only limited access highways, to all electronic tolling which would allow motorists to pass through without having to slow down. We understand that residents of Connecticut will always have an issue with tolling. Those same residents also have an issue with a deteriorating infrastructure that they drive on every day. This is a way to generate revenue to fix those problems. It is essential that we consider fairness and equity when we assess the installation of possible systems.

We believe that these bills could be extremely successful when properly implemented.

What no one can deny is that we are surrounded by states that collect billions in tolls. Why Connecticut's I95 or I84 be the only "FREEWAY"? When we drive down the New York thruway or Massachusetts Turnpike, Connecticut residents are tossing money into the coffers of those border states funding their transportation costs. Yet when cars and trucks are crossing into Connecticut to enter New England all we are is a pass through state footing the bill.