Testimony Submitted by Keith R. Brothers, Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer CT Laborers’ District and President, New London/Norwich Building and Construction Trades Council.

March 4, 2019 Appropriations Committee Public on the Governor’s Budget Proposal

Chairs, Ranking Members and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

We would like to associate ourselves with the testimony of Connecticut Construction Industries Association in opposition to the provisions of the Governor’s Budget that would eliminate General Obligation Bonds for Transportation Infrastructure, as well as eliminate the scheduled diversion from the new car sales tax from the General Fund to the State Transportation Fund.

Both of those provisions were the result of extensive discussion and bipartisan agreement in last year’s General Assembly session. Those provisions assured stability for the STF and the continued ability of the State to move forward on essential projects for the restoration of the Connecticut’s endangered transportation infrastructure.

Reversing those actions will lead to accelerated deterioration of our highways and bridges in our State. That in turn puts the traveling public at greater risk. There is no need to take these actions. The General Assembly took the correct steps last year and these should stay in place.

Finally, but significantly, as Connecticut continues its economic recovery, to follow the budget recommendations will threaten thousands of contractor and building trades jobs. The jobs should remain. The progress must continue.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith R. Brothers