

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 7280 AND HB 7202  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 6, 2019**

Dear Chairmen Sen. Leone and Rep. Lemar, Vice-Chairs Sen. Bergstein and Rep. Simms, Ranking Members Sen. Martin and Rep. Devlin, and Distinguished Members of the Transportation Committee,

I have been a resident of Glastonbury, Connecticut for over 30 years. I am writing to **testify in support of two bills to allow tolls on CT highways:**

**HB 7280: AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE CREATION OF THE CONNECTICUT TRANSPORTATION FINANCE AUTHORITY.**

**HB 7202: AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CONNECTICUT'S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE.**

Since the study to develop electronic tolling system on CT highways was completed, I believe it is time for CT to move forward and begin the process of establishing tolls on all major highways in the state. I have driven up and down the East Coast from Maine to Virginia, and every surrounding Eastern state has tolls. CT shouldn't be any different.

40% of all CT traffic is from out of state travelers, and CT should benefit from the tolls they pay to maintain our roads. These out of state travelers use our roads for free, yet when we travel out of state CT residents pay tolls in other states.

According to Joe Giuletti, DOT Commissioner of Transportation, when he appeared on Face the State, Sunday, March 2, 2019, CT has 4 bridges that are in need of replacement because they are 100 years old. The Railroads are not in a good state of repair, nor are they operating at optimum conditions. In fact, he stated that the speed of our trains have actually reduced to 35 mph. There are 40 million rides per year on the New Haven line, and if the railroads were operating in good state of repair, their speed could increase and there would be less traffic and congestion on our roads.

All CT residents use our roads, whether they drive or are passengers. We need to pay for solid infrastructure, good quality roads and bridges, and good public transportation to keep us safe. In addition, this will create and maintain jobs, and we won't lose construction workers to other states.

I support a lock box on the money collected from tolls, so that these funds will be used to improve our outdated crumbling bridges and our transportation system.

It is time to bring back tolls, now that the technology of electronic tolling has made it much easier and safer to collect tolls.

I urge the members of the Transportation Committee to vote Yes, for HB 7280 and HB 7202, and vote these bills out of committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Paula Bacolini  
Glastonbury, CT