



**Testimony of James L Fuda, PE  
Past President  
American Council of Engineering Companies of Connecticut  
Before the Transportation Committee  
On HB 7202, An Act Concerning the Sustainability of Connecticut's Transportation  
Infrastructure and HB 7280 An Act Concerning Support for Transportation Infrastructure and  
the Creation of the Connecticut Transportation Finance Authority.**

Good afternoon Senator Leone, Representative Lemar and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee, my name is Jim Fuda and I am Vice President and Connecticut Division Manager for Alfred Benesch & Company in Glastonbury, CT. I am also the immediate Past-President of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Connecticut (ACEC-CT) representing almost 2,000 highly skilled engineers employed by 60 member-companies located throughout the state. I am here today to speak in favor of HB 7202 An Act Concerning the Sustainability of Connecticut's Transportation Infrastructure.

ACEC-CT is the leading organization supporting the business and professional interests of consulting engineering firms in Connecticut. A significant goal of our organization is to educate and promote a better understanding of the infrastructure needs of the state and its residents.

Connecticut is at a critical crossroads as it looks to remain competitive while facing the challenge of reconstructing an aging infrastructure that suffers from years of deferred maintenance and underinvestment.

The State of Connecticut has more than 21,000 lane miles and over 5000 bridges connecting the state's cities and towns. These roads and bridges carry over 31 billion vehicle trips per year. In 2018, a report by TRIP, a national, non-profit transportation research group based in Washington D.C. found 308 of the 4,250 bridges in Connecticut are structurally deficient and in need of repair.

Connecticut businesses, workers, visitors, and residents deserve a transportation system that is reliable, safe, and effective. The American Society of Civil Engineers 2018 Infrastructure Report Card gave Connecticut an overall grade of C- saying..."it actually costs each driver in Connecticut an extra \$864 per year driving on CT roads in need of repair."

Our transportation network is integral to the success of our state's economy. The importance of a robust transportation network has been well documented by business analysts, economists, and the research community alike. With that in mind, we need to provide a sustainable funding source to address our failing infrastructure needs.

My firm has been providing engineering services in Connecticut for transportation projects since 1959. Forty percent of my staff have earned their engineering degrees from Connecticut colleges and have chosen to live and work in Connecticut. These highly skilled Connecticut taxpayers are key contributors to our state's economy. Our business's growth as well as the growth of Connecticut's economy mutually depend on a predictable funding stream for transportation. The instability of current revenue sources going into the State Transportation Fund (STF) make it imperative that tolling be added to the mix now.

Our neighboring states have all adopted electronic tolls as a fair, effective and predictable means of raising revenue for their transportation systems. It is time that Connecticut do the same to adequately fund the infrastructure needs of our state and I ask that you support this bill for the implementation of tolling. We do not support the section of H.B. 7280 establishing the Connecticut Transportation Finance Authority. We believe this added layer of government would slow down delivery of projects, increase their costs and provide not added benefit.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, I am happy to answer any questions you might have.