



Christopher Fryxell, President  
Associated Builders & Contractors, CT Chapter

**SUPPORT SB 920: An Act Concerning Public Private Partnerships**

**Transportation Committee  
March 3, 2021**

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Chairman Lemar, Chairman Cassano, Chairman Simms, Ranking Member Somers, Ranking Member Carney and members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Christopher Fryxell and I am the President of the Associated Builders and Contractors of Connecticut (CT ABC). CT ABC is a statewide trade association made up of over 200 companies, large and small, that represent merit shop contractors. I am testifying today on behalf of those members.

We are in support of **SB 920: An Act Concerning Public Private Partnerships** with some reservations.

Public Private Partnerships, when properly executed, can attract private financing and help to deliver critical infrastructure projects in an efficient and taxpayer-friendly manner. P3s can lower construction costs and the overall life-cycle costs that may otherwise be borne by the taxpayer. Currently there is a significant need for infrastructure investment and P3s are an important tool to have at the state's disposal when evaluating the best way to deliver a project that are built to last and completed at the best value to the taxpayer. As we've seen in other states, a workable P3 program can help to jump start projects that may otherwise never be completed.

We agree with provisions that lift some of the more onerous and restrictive requirements that have effectively prevented P3s since the 2011 enabling legislation. We support removing restrictions on the number of P3s the state can enter in to and removing limitations on the terms of investment and limitations on state investment so long as public interest is protected.

While we would like to see P3s move forward there should be sufficient oversight and transparency whenever the state is investing taxpayer resources. That means substantial public input periods before during and after the project is completed should be welcome. Additionally, the State Contract Review Board should have jurisdiction to investigate complaints of wrongdoing related to P3s.

Lastly, we suggest the committee use this opportunity to remove language specific to Project Labor Agreements in the P3 statutes. Prevailing wage clearly applies to any P3

projects and the inclusion of PLA specific language adds nothing to the meaning of the statute.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I am happy to answer any questions. For follow up I can be reached at 860-838-6226 or [chrisf@ctabc.org](mailto:chrisf@ctabc.org).

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