

Transportation Committee
Friday, February 19

House Bill 6054: AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRIVATIZATION OF NON STRATEGIC ASSETS TO PAY DOWN DEBT IN THE SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND - Oppose

Representative Lemax, Senator Cassano, Representative Carney, Senator Somers, and members of the Transportation Committee:

My name is Travis Woodward, and I am the President of CSEA SEIU Local 2001's P4 Council. I represent the Engineers, Scientists and Information Technologists at DOT, DEEP and most state agencies. I submit this testimony on behalf of our members.

House Bill 6054: AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRIVATIZATION OF NON STRATEGIC ASSETS TO PAY DOWN DEBT IN THE SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND is another get-rich-quick scheme brought about by privateers of state governance. It is akin to your family selling off family heirlooms to a pawn shop in order to make some quick money. The "non-strategic" assets referred to in the bill are the property of the taxpayers and should not be auctioned off to corporations. When privatization of state services and assets go wrong they can be disastrous for the taxpayers and for the state as a whole for years to come. Even when privatization does go right, it is still much more costly than if state employees performed the work.

CSEA and the Connecticut Department of Transportation professionals have pointed out repeatedly that the state has wasted hundreds of millions of dollars by privatizing important Department of Transportation work. Based on cost-effectiveness evaluations conducted by the Connecticut DOT in accordance with OPM guidance, the state would have saved over \$100 million annually between FY2016 and FY2018 if DOT had performed construction inspection and engineering services with state employees in lieu of outside consultants. Additionally, the State Contracting Standards Board estimates yearly savings of between \$174 and \$264 million if the state required competitive bidding on all POS and PSA contracts.

HB 6054 is a money-making ploy by privateers looking to profit off Connecticut taxpayers. Instead of selling off state assets, we should look to invest in our infrastructure further. Savings are right there on the table for us to use. Let's take advantage of those savings before heading to the pawn shop with Grandma's gold.

I urge the members of the committee to reject House Bill 6054.

Travis Woodward, P.E.
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