



CONNECTICUT ASPHALT & AGGREGATE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

a division of Connecticut Construction Industries Association, Inc.



May 30, 2017

James P. Redeker
Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06111

RE: I-84 Hartford Project

Dear Commissioner Redeker:

The Connecticut Asphalt & Aggregate Producers Association, Inc. (CAAPA) is respectfully submitting this letter in support of the I-84/I-91 tunnel proposal put forth by Congressman John B. Larson. Further, CAAPA requests that the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) conduct an expedited study of this tunnel proposal either in conjunction with the ongoing I-84 Hartford Project to replace the Aetna Viaduct or as a part of the I-84/I-91 Interchange Study. Congressman Larson's plan would replace the viaduct with an underground bypass and interchange system, reclaim the Hartford and East Hartford Riverfronts, and create new levels on the land-side of the flood control system which would fortify the levees on the Hartford side of the river.

CAAPA members have been locally producing, delivering, and installing the asphalt and aggregates that have served as primary components of the Connecticut's transportation systems for many years. In our industry, as with most others, mobility for employees, and the efficient movement of goods and services are key to any successful operation. Asphalt is a perishable product and prompt delivery is essential. The right improvements in this corridor would not only benefit our businesses, it would greatly improve our ability to deliver materials to transportation projects in the state.

Furthermore, the right transportation investments in the region would lead to a generation of well-paying construction jobs, not only in the field, but in the many producer plants and facilities across the state. These investments would also generate thousands of ensuing jobs in other sectors of the economy that follow the supporting infrastructure.

Congressman Larson's plan would solve several major infrastructure challenges along this heavily travelled corridor. In particular, it would: allow I-84 to stay open during the construction phase; strengthen the levee system—an urgent threat to public safety; and, create a much needed bypass system for the significant amount of vehicles that pass through Hartford, freeing up roads for local traffic.

Our member organizations plan long-term in our operations and investments. We are always looking to maximize the return on every dollar spent. The Government should do the same.

We applaud ConnDOT for the hard work that has been put into developing the I-84 Hartford Project. Your department clearly understands the challenges associated with this project and the enormous opportunity that it presents to transform the region and move us in a positive direction. Because the decisions we make now in regards to infrastructure will determine the shape of our region for generations to come, it is crucial that we get this right and avoid repeating the mistakes of the past. The tunnel solution outlined by Congressman Larson to replace the viaduct warrants careful consideration and we urge you to expedite a study to fully evaluate this alternative.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



R. Bradford Oneglia
President

cc: The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
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The Honorable Chris Murphy
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The Honorable John B. Larson
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