



June 6, 2017

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

**RE: I-84 Hartford Project**

Dear Commissioner Redeker:

The Connecticut Laborers' District Council (CLDC) supports the I-84/I-91 proposal offered by Congressman John Larson. This bold plan would replace the viaduct with an underground bypass and interchange system, addressing longstanding infrastructure challenges and unleashing the potential for economic development in the Hartford corridor. This type of transformative infrastructure investment is necessary to the future viability of our economy. In the short term, we fully support an expedited review of the tunnel alternative by the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) as this plan warrants careful consideration.

Moving goods and people safely and efficiently is critical to a competitive Connecticut economy. Yet, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation, traffic congestion costs commuters and businesses \$170 billion a year due to 4 billion hours in delays; a major problem plaguing the Hartford area. We appreciate Congressman Larson's attention to these issues and his vision, but the incredible work of ConnDOT to balance this opportunity with the challenges associated deserve our praise as well.

Investment in rebuilding the interchange will create thousands of family-supporting construction jobs and generate millions in economic activity. From the municipal level to Congress and everywhere in between, the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) has been on the frontlines advocating for solutions to our growing transportation challenges and making certain a long-term vision to build and maintain safe, reliable and efficient transportation systems is achieved.

Our over 5,000 skilled members living in Connecticut and signatory contractor partners stand ready to make this vision a reality. Replacing the viaduct by building the tunnel option will require skills, training and safety awareness that our members have provided to the state for decades. The opportunity to continue to cultivate family-supporting construction careers while transforming our economy for the future is a win-win. We look forward to working collaboratively with stakeholders during the planning and review process.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

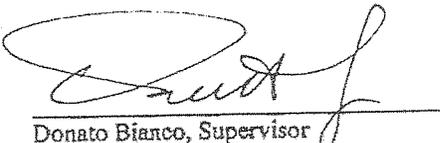
Very truly yours,

  
Vincent R. Masino, Supervisor  
Connecticut Laborers' District Council

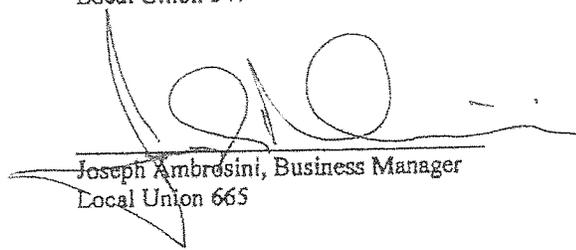
  
Peter Perez, Business Manager  
Local Union 146

  
Ralph Inorio, Business Manager  
Local Union 455

  
Loy Hoyle, Business Manager  
Local Union 611

  
Donato Bianco, Supervisor  
Local Union 230

  
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CLDC/kem

Cc:

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal, U.S. Senator  
90 State House Square, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Hartford, CT 06103

The Honorable Chris Murphy, U.S. Senator  
Colt Gateway, Suite 401  
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Hartford, CT 06106

The Honorable John B. Larson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
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Amy D. Jackson-Grove, Division Administrator  
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