



CONNECTICUT READY MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION, INC.



A DIVISION OF CONNECTICUT CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION, INC.

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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 Ready Mixed Concrete Association, Inc. (CRMCA) is writing this letter in support of the I-84/I-91 tunnel proposal put forth by Congressman John B. Larson. Further, we request 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.

CRMCA is an association of ready mixed concrete producers, cement suppliers, admixture and supply vendors, and contractors. In our industry, as with most others, mobility for employees, and the efficient movement of materials are key to any successful operation. The congestion in the greater Hartford area presents challenges to many of our member firms and their employees. 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.

Replacing the I-84 viaduct presents a rare and historic opportunity to address the long-term infrastructure needs of the capital city and transform the region for generations to come. If we plan and invest wisely, we have the potential to create a robust transportation system for the next century. It is crucial that we fully consider the long-term viability of Hartford and the surrounding communities before choosing one alternative over another.

In addition to creating a vibrant, livable community, Congressman Larson's plan would also 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.

As an association of material producers and suppliers, we are inclined to think long-term in our operations and investments. We are always looking to maximize the return on every dollar spent. It is simply good common sense. 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,



Kevin Miller
President

cc: The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
U.S. Senator
90 State House Square 10th Floor
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The Honorable Chris Murphy
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The Honorable John B. Larson
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