

## **Press Statement**

For immediate release

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### **Connecticut State Building Trades Council Supports Gov. Ned Lamont's Statement on Tolls**

*The Connecticut State Building Trades council (CSBT) made the following statements in response to Gov. Ned Lamont's tolling proposal:*

#### **David Roche, President of the CT State Building Trades Council:**

“Connecticut is the only state on the entire eastern seaboard that doesn't have some type of tolling system. With deteriorating infrastructure, we simply don't have the luxury of relying on the gas tax alone to fully fund our Special Transportation Fund (STF). In fact, 33.5 percent of Connecticut's bridges are either structurally deficient or functionally obsolete, which is well above the national average of 23 percent. Electronic tolling will keep our STF solvent for generations to come. This will ensure that we can make the investments necessary to address our infrastructure and transportation needs, while creating a steady pipeline of jobs for our state's residents.

The Building Trades represent thousands of skilled construction workers across Connecticut who are trained and certified to meet our state's workforce demands. We are ready to go to work to bring our state's infrastructure into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond.”

#### **Keith Brothers, Secretary-Treasurer of the CT State Building Trades Council:**

“Connecticut voted overwhelmingly in support of this last fall's constitutional amendment enforcing the “lockbox” to ensure that transportation funding only goes to transportation initiatives. The public sent a clear message that our state's economic competitiveness is intrinsically tied to our infrastructure. Electronic tolling on both trucks and passenger vehicles will generate billions of dollars in revenue to fund our aging infrastructure and meet our transportation demands.

We applaud Gov. Lamont for recognizing that investments in our infrastructure also equate to investments in our local workforce. Our members are some of the best trained workers in the state. We're ready to heed the call and go to work to improve Connecticut.”

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The Connecticut State Building Trades Council (CSBT) represents approximately 30,000 construction workers across the state. Dave Roche served on then Gov-Elect Lamont's jobs & economy policy group. And Keith Brothers served on then Gov-Elect Lamont's steering committee for his transition team, and on his transportation policy group.

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