



**State of Connecticut**  
**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

March 6, 2017

Mr. James P. Redeker  
Commissioner  
Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 317546  
2800 Berlin Turnpike  
Newington, CT 06111

Dear Commissioner Redeker,

The attached Hartford Courant column raises concerns about public safety and public health at Connecticut's highway rest stops. ["Connecticut Finds Another Way To Tell Truckers: We Don't Care", <http://www.courant.com/politics/hc-lender-truck-rest-area-closings-20170228-story.html>]

DOT says it will leave open entrance ramps to the state's highway rest areas in Danbury, Southington, Willington, Wallingford, Middletown and North Stonington so that truckers can pull off the highway to park and sleep. However, the article states that "there would no longer be any toilet facilities in the areas...and portable toilets would be removed. The lack of rest rooms makes it likely that truckers who park overnight will use the bushes and trees as rest rooms, potentially creating a sanitation problem."

With this in mind, we have the following questions:

Will Connecticut's highway rest stops become "like an open sewer", as one driver interviewed in the article predicts? If so, what precautions is DOT taking?

Will State Police be available to ensure the safety of truckers using these areas?

DOT currently intends to spend \$300,000 from the department's reserves to study a potential Connecticut Mileage Tax. Could those funds instead be put toward keeping rest stop toilet facilities open?

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Toni Boucher".

Toni Boucher  
State Senator – 26<sup>th</sup> District

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Len Suzio".

Len Suzio  
State Senator – 13<sup>th</sup> District