

Appropriations Committee

Friday, February 26

House Bill 6439: AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2023, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Mmes, Representative France, and members of the Appropriations:

My name is Falk von Flachecki and I am a resident of Colchester. I work for the Department of Transportation as a Transportation Supervising Engineer and a member of the P-4 bargaining unit and I offer the following testimony in regards to the budget proposal for The Department of Transportation.

I supervise the District Surveys and Plans Section for the District 1 region of the DOT, which includes the greater Hartford area.

District Surveys produces the topographic mapping used to design our vital transportation infrastructure projects for both in house and consultant design. Surveys also supports construction projects in various ways including the checking of the contractor's layout and maintains the boundary markers of our state road right of ways. These are just some of our tasks.

As I watch upper level and newer employees leave to go to work for consultants I ask myself why are these people leaving? The answer I get when I ask those leaving is money and so I ask myself, if consultants can pay more does it cost the state more, as they work for a profit. The question should be asked is this true, a consultant service costs the state more? Just knowing they work for profit I would assume it does. Fortunately it has been shown to be true by the DOT's own report from 2016. I urge you to obtain and review the report and see the use of consultants is a greater cost to the Connecticut taxpayers.

I hope you will all see from the 2016 report how much more consultants can cost and how much can be saved without using expensive consultants, please save Connecticut Taxpayers from increased gas tax and tolls by limiting consultant usage when DOT employees can do it cheaper, faster and with pride knowing we got more done with the same dollars without expensive consultants and it cost none of us more in taxes or fees.

I want to thank you for hearing my testimony. I urge committee members to craft a budget that protects critical services and funds the work my co-workers and I do everyday for the great state of Connecticut.

Falk von Flachecki, P.L.S.

CSEA P-4 member