

InfrastructureUSA

Guest on THE INFRA BLOG

Governor Dannel Malloy, Connecticut

Steven C.F. Anderson, Managing Director, InfrastructureUSA, spoke with Governor Dannel Malloy at Regional Plan Association's 21st annual Regional Assembly, "Innovation and the Global City." The event took place on April 15th, 2011, in New York City.

Governor Malloy:

We are obligated to improve infrastructure

I'm very much frightened by this reversal that some people are trying to bring about in the United States, as if we don't have an obligation to leave this infrastructure in better shape for the time that we used it. And I'm looking at the discussion of disinvestment in infrastructure, transportation and education, that really is quite bothersome and ultimately would make Connecticut, my state, or the region, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, or the country, less competitive. And that just can't be tolerated, so somebody has got to raise their voice about the level of investment that is needed to sustain current infrastructure and then really to go beyond, well beyond that state of the infrastructure today.

Disinvestment is a losing strategy

I think we have to engage on a daily basis. We can't allow things to be said about infrastructure investment which simply are untrue. The other side likes to say things that are untrue, that projects are too expensive or that they won't have the kinds of returns that you want them to have. I can guarantee you that if we don't invest in infrastructure then we're going to lose. And the best way to remain competitive is to make the kind of investments that, unfortunately, some states and our national government may be turning away from. I'm prepared to raise my voice on the subject. Hopefully there are a few others out there.

Joining the infra discussion

I just completed seventeen town hall style meetings across the state of Connecticut to explain my budget, and I am convinced that the democracy is alive and well, but people need to be invited to the table or to the hall to have those kinds of discussions and then we need to lead those discussions to explain why infrastructure investment and education investments are the only things that will pay off in the long run.

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