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Written Testimony of Christopher Phelps, Program Director
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee

Friday, February 13, 2009

Written testimony **opposing** Proposed Senate Bill 264, An Act Exempting Certain Development At State-Owned Airports From Environmental Impact Statements

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, Senator McKinney, Representative Chapin and members of the Environment Committee:

Environment Connecticut submits this testimony opposing Proposed Senate Bill 264. This bill would exempt "privately funded development" at state-owned airports from the requirement of complying with the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act. This act allows the public an opportunity to review and comment on the environmental impact of proposed state actions effecting the environment. Clearly, development at state-owned airports would be the sort of project to which CEPA is intended to, and should, apply.

The bill appears to be based on the belief that a development which is "privately funded," should be exempt from the requirements of CEPA. This is a ridiculous proposition. Development that that occurs as part of a state project should be subject to appropriate environmental review and evaluation. If such a project results in harm to Connecticut's environment, the fact that such harm was caused by a private development does not somehow make that harm less of a concern.

On behalf of Environment Connecticut's statewide membership, I urge you to reject Proposed SB 264.

Sincerely,

Christopher Phelps
Program Director
Environment Connecticut