



March 4, 2009

Senator Donald J. DeFronzo, Co-Chair  
Representative Antonio Guerrero, Co-Chair  
Transportation Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly  
Room 2300, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: S.B. 563: AN ACT EXTENDING THE MORATORIUM ON  
REALIGNMENT BY THE STATE OF ROUTE 113 IN STRATFORD.  
(TRA)

Dear Senator DeFronzo, Representative Guerrero and members of the  
Transportation Committee:

I am the General Manager of Atlantic Aviation, a fixed base operator at Sikorsky Memorial Airport in Stratford, CT (the "Airport"). I provide these remarks to you in opposition to S.B. 563. This bill, if passed, would have devastating effects on safety, infrastructure and the economy. It will negatively impact my livelihood, that of my company, our customers, and the State's aviation infrastructure.

Atlantic Aviation provides aircraft fueling, parking and hangar services at the Airport, along with offices for corporate flight departments and other aviation businesses. We employ 17 people at this location. We as a company, our employees, tenants and our customers enjoy the benefits of and patronize stores, shops and restaurants throughout Stratford. We are part of the community and wish to remain a part of the community. Our business relies on a transient population, namely based aircraft for local businesses and individuals that can easily move to other states literally in a matter of minutes. We also support aircraft that are based in other states, but which transport people and products to conduct business in the region.

Runway 24 at the Airport is in dire need of repaving. Like any pavement, the runway surface deteriorates over time and eventually needs to be repaved. Runway 24 is already in a condition that makes it difficult and expensive to repair. Repaving Runway 24 is an immediate concern because at some point in the very near future, it will not be able to be safely and satisfactorily maintained. It has long required repaving, and the Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") has a plan and funding to do so. The FAA plan and funding require that Runway

24 meet current federal safety standards. Those safety standards require installation of a runway safety area (RSA) - hence the need to slightly alter the location of Route 113 alongside the Airport. This project is among the FAA's highest airport safety priorities on a nationwide scale.

Supporters of S.B. 563 have argued that installation of the RSA will be an extension of the runway. The facts belie this claim. Not only will the material used in the RSA collapse and require rebuilding when an aircraft simply taxis upon it, but the lawful, useable runway length will not change. In short, Route 113 needs to be moved in order for the RSA to be installed and Runway 24 repaved.

The FAA's proposal eliminates the flooding on Route 113 alongside Runway 24, which often closes the road following a typical rain storm. This safety improvement benefiting the motorists and residents in the area will also be paid for by the federal government. The property to be used for the RSA and for moving the Route 113 is currently an old, unused and neglected parking lot for the former Lycoming plant. It is filled with cracks, and has weeds growing through it. There is simply no reason not to take advantage of already allocated federal funds and a neglected, unused parking lot in order to permit necessary runway maintenance and the installation of current safety standards. Failure to do so will result in closure of the runway and its resultant harm to my company and many of my employees who will then be laid off.

Lastly, SB 563 seeks a third moratorium to supposedly study moving Route 113. No further study need be undertaken, and I have seen no evidence to suggest that the last two years worth of moratoriums have resulted in any study whatsoever by those who seek to deny the aviation community a freshly paved runway and modern safety standards. In short, SB 563 is a thinly veiled attempt to severely curtail operations at the Airport to the point where it is no longer economically viable. Moreover, safety improvements are being held hostage to a political dispute between the City of Bridgeport and Town of Stratford over ownership and control of BDR.

My company and I, along with our employees and customers, respectfully request your help in preserving our livelihoods by opposing SB 563. Please vote no when SB 563 is presented to you for your vote. The Sikorsky Memorial Airport is a vital part of our State's transportation infrastructure, and it cannot be allowed to fail because certain neighbors who dislike the Airport chose to move near us. On a personal level, I live in Stratford, vote in Stratford, pay taxes to Stratford, and patronize Stratford businesses. Whether you look at this issue from a macro or a micro viewpoint, the Airport is an asset to each of us in many ways.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Carey', written in a cursive style.

Michael Carey  
General Manager