

March 4, 2009

Members of the Transportation Committee:

Good morning. My name is Tony Burson. I am the Chief Pilot for United Technologies Corporation "UTFlight." We have 64 employees support our operation of seven aircraft world-wide. We fly approximately 75 operations a year in and out of the Sikorsky Memorial Airport. I would like to go on record in saying UTFlight is opposed to Bill S 563. We would like planned construction to proceed at the Sikorsky Memorial Airport for the following reasons:

- Enhance airport safety and aircraft operations. The current runways are in need of repaving. Part of this project would also add safety areas to each end of the runway bringing them into compliance with FAA Standards. Runway lengths would not be increased.
- Sikorsky Aircraft a division of United Technologies is the largest employer in the Stratford area. It is essential that UTFlight operates in and out of Sikorsky Memorial Airport. In this global economy, it is critical for Sikorsky Aircraft to maintain its competitive edge. Updating the runway would allow UTFlight to continue flying into Bridgeport with increased safety.
- To increase economic stimulus for the airport and surrounding area. The FAA is ready to invest 15 million dollars to make the necessary airport improvements mandated to bring the airport up to current safety standards. An Investment from Volo Aviation of 10 million dollars is also planned for construction on airport property.

The runway repairs for Sikorsky Memorial Airport have been long overdue. It's time for public safety to be at the forefront and let's help bring some economic stimulus back into the Bridgeport area.

Tony Burson  
UTFlight  
Chief Pilot