



## TOWN OF OXFORD

S.B. Church Memorial Town Hall  
486 Oxford Road, Oxford, Connecticut 06478-1298  
Phone: (203) 888-2543 Fax: (203) 888-2136

Date: February 13, 2009

**Testimony of Herman Schuler, Economic Development Director for the  
Town of Oxford re: SB 264 AN ACT EXEMPTING CERTAIN DEVELOPMENT  
AT STATE-OWNED AIRPORTS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
STATEMENTS**

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for SB 264 which Senator Kane has proposed for consideration. I am grateful to the committee for granting this legislation a public hearing and hope that my testimony and support will result in a "Joint Favorable" recommendation that will promote the legislation to the next level.

SB 264 would amend Section 22a-1F of the general statutes to exempt PRIVATELY FUNDED airport infrastructure projects from the CEPA requirement to prepare Environmental Impact Evaluations (EIE) when the project is being built on state owned airport parcels that have already been designated as aviation services infrastructure sites under the current airport master plan.

Eliminating the CEPA, EIE requirement has the benefit of reducing total project cost, reducing project completion time and reducing the time to market currently being experienced by Connecticut aviation services providers operating from state owned facilities.

In September of 2007, DOT, DEP, STC and Town of Oxford Wetland Commission approved a 273,000sf hangar, executive terminal and related office space at the Waterbury-Oxford Airport.

The privately funded \$33 million dollar project will be completed by a local construction company that has agreed to purchase fill from an adjoining Town owned industrial park east of the new hangar site.

When complete, the new facility will be owned by the State and leased back to the developer on a 40-50 year long term lease. The new facility will provide capacity to serve 30 new wide cabin corporate jets relocating to Oxford from out of state airports.

When the airport project is complete the Town of Oxford and the local construction company will build an 85,000sf flex space industrial building to host new Oxford businesses.

The \$33 million dollar construction effort will generate 200+ construction jobs at prevailing wage for 18 months, 300+ high paying aviation jobs at the airport, increase State GDP and corporate income tax receipts, generate economic multipliers derived from additional employment and economic activity while providing the additional hangar and administrative floor space needed to attract more aircraft to the wide cabin corporate jet management services currently offered at the airport.

We need to get this project started for the benefit of the State, the Region and the Town of Oxford and we need to waive the CEPA EIE requirement to eliminate further delay.

On behalf of the Town of Oxford and our State Representation I am asking for your support in making this legislative change and I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to present this testimony in support of SB 264 and ask your support to promote this legislation to a favorable outcome.