



**Administrative and Residual Employees Union
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Professionals Working So State Government Works

Testimony of Paul Krell, Jr.
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Transportation Committee
Public Hearing Wednesday, February 18, 2009

S.B. 43 An Act Concerning the Governance and Administration of Bradley Airport

Good morning Senator DeFronzo, Representative Guerrera and members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Paul Krell and I am the President of the Administrative and Residual Employees Union, which represents more than 20 airport operations specialists and financial support staff employed by Bradley Airport and DOT. On their behalf, I offer A&R's support for S.B. 154, An Act Concerning the Governance and Administration of Bradley Airport.

A 2000 study concluded that the Department of Transportation lacked the expertise to make Bradley a catalyst for economic growth and advised the DOT to create an airport Board of Directors to develop long-range plans, including building its presence in the tourism industry, creating marketing and financial plans and making Bradley a factor in all state economic development initiatives.

It has been some time since those recommendations were implemented and though Bradley Airport has made great strides, it still seems that such a valuable state asset could still do so much more. Every accomplished business periodically takes stock of its strengths and weaknesses in order to maximize its success. S.B. 154 would provide the same opportunity for Bradley Airport. S.B. 154 would allow the DOT and the Bradley Board of Directors to study the airport's operations and explore new governance and administrative structures that might help it reach its full potential as an economic driver in our state.

In times of economic crisis and fiscal distress, we understand that the temptation to sell or privatize public assets is great. We remind those who urge the privatization or sale of Bradley Airport of outrageous tab left by incompetent consultants and the peril of trying to balance the budget on one-time revenue tricks. Bradley Airport is a valued state asset that should be retained and strengthened.

S.B. 154 could be a pathway to the kind of prosperous future Bradley Airport can achieve for the state and its residents. A&R welcomes the opportunity to be part of this process and offers our assistance to the committee in this effort.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.