



First in Connecticut. First for its citizens.

February 16, 2010

Co-Chairs Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger  
Members of the Commerce Committee

SB 107  
Re: ~~HB 5187~~ AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BRADLEY DEVELOPMENT ZONE

Dear Chairpersons and Members of the Commerce Committee:

It is my pleasure to write to you to express support for Bill 5187, An Act Establishing a Bradley Development Zone, which will help to retain and attract businesses to the area around Bradley International Airport. As New England's second largest commercial airport, Bradley International is a major economic driver for the State of Connecticut. The Bradley Development League, Metro Hartford Alliance and key state legislators are proposing the creation of the Bradley Airport Development Zone to seize upon the airport's potential. This new zone comprising commercial and industrial areas in close proximity to Bradley would offer incentives that will help attract new businesses and expand existing businesses. This initiative is about: **1) creating new jobs, 2) attracting new private sector capital, and 3) increasing revenue to the state and municipalities in the region.**

Bradley is already an economic development engine, but it has not reached its full potential with over 1,000 acres of undeveloped land existing within the proposed zone. Significant development has occurred in the proposed zone over the last several years including Tire Rack, Walgreens, American Wood Moulding, Ford Motor Company, Federal Express, several new hotel developments, Embrear, Mazak and Windsor Marketing Group.

The new zone would encompass critical corridors along Routes 20 and Route 75 Ella Grasso Turnpike, as well as developable area in the New England Trade Port area, on the Hamilton Sundstrand campus, along Perimeter Road and on airport property. The zone also includes the CSX rail line in Suffield/Windsor Locks, Air National Guard units and Foreign Trade Zone #71. The FTZ covers 18 acres in the Cornerstone Industrial Park. Griffin Land is interested in expanding the FTZ to the New England Trade Port area.

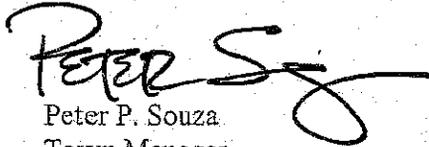
The incentives proposed in the Airport Development Zone are considered important site selection factors when competing against other regions across the country and world. *Area Development*, a national real estate selection publication, just released its 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Corporate Survey and tax exemptions and incentives ranked in the top ten site selection factors (third and eighth respectfully). When asked about the type of incentives they considered most important

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when making a location decision, half of the survey respondents cited tax incentives (tax credits, exemptions). The new zone incentives will allow us to compete against other regions in the country for new jobs and new capital.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony. I respectfully request that the committee act favorably on this proposal to create an Airport Development Zone around Bradley International.

Sincerely,



Peter P. Souza  
Town Manager

c: Senator Eric Coleman, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Senator John Kissell, 7<sup>th</sup> District  
Representative Matt Conway, District 61  
Representative Peggy Sayers, District 60