



State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

SENATOR JOHN A. KISSEL
CHIEF DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER

16 FREW TERRACE
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06082
TELEPHONES
HARTFORD: (860) 240-0531
HOME: (860) 745-0668
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1421
FAX: (860) 240-8308
E-MAIL: John.A.Kissel@cga.ct.gov

CHAIRMAN
PROGRAM REVIEW AND
INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

RANKING MEMBER
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING

MEMBER
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE

Public Hearing Testimony
February 16, 2010
Commerce Committee
John Kissel, State Senator, 7th District

Re: Senate Bill 107 – An Act Establishing a Bradley Development Zone

Good morning Senator Lebeau, Representative Berger, Ranking Members Frantz and Alberts and members of the Commerce Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of SB 107 *An Act Establishing a Bradley Development Zone*. I would additionally like to thank Sen. Lebeau and Rep. Berger for scheduling a public hearing so soon on this important issue affecting not only north-central Connecticut, but the entire state as a whole.

Last session, under the leadership of Sen. Lebeau, Sen. DeFronzo and others, the State Senate passed SB 154 *An Act Concerning the Administration of Bradley International Airport*. This bill would have created an economic enterprise zone comprised of the various communities surrounding Bradley Airport. Unfortunately, the House was unable to take up the bill.

One year later, with unemployment nearing 9 percent, this bill is more important than ever. Similar to SB 154, this bill would create the "Bradley Airport Development Zone," which would provide tax incentives for new and existing businesses in those portions of Windsor Locks, Suffield, East Granby and Windsor which surround Bradley Airport.

As one of the leading drivers of economic activity for the state, Bradley Airport generates over \$34 billion dollars in economic output and sustains nearly 140,000 jobs in the state. While we struggle through these tough economic times and search for ways to grow jobs in the state, we should be cognizant of our existing resources and think of creative ways to utilize them.

The tax incentives contained in SB 107 will have a two-fold goal of encouraging new businesses to migrate to the area, while also encouraging existing businesses to expand. Increased business development in the Bradley area will also have positive effects on the entire state by creating

employment opportunities and contributing to our tax base. Now more than ever, we need to get serious and creative about stimulating economic growth.

I would like to again thank the co-chairs for their willingness to raise SB 107 *An Act Establishing a Bradley Development Zone* and for giving me the opportunity to speak in support of it. I sincerely hope that the committee looks favorable on this bill and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.