



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

## *TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE*

*March 1, 2011*

*Benjamin Barnes*

*Secretary*

*Office of Policy and Management*

Testimony Supporting Senate Bill No. 1003

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT AIRPORT AUTHORITY.

---

Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill No.1003, *An Act Concerning the Connecticut Airport Authority*.

This bill creates a new, independent authority to operate and market the state's six airports: Bradley International, Brainard-Hartford, Waterbury-Oxford, Windham, Danielson and Groton-New London. Creation of this authority will help fulfill the Governor's goal of making Connecticut more business-friendly and better able to respond to market changes within the industry. A more responsive airport authority will allow the state to be more nimble in its efforts to market our airports.

In the coming weeks, we will be working collaboratively with the Commerce Committee, the General Assembly and ConnDOT to create an authority with full jurisdiction, discretion and necessary resources to manage, operate and develop the airports in lieu of the existing oversight roles of multiple boards and state agencies.

I appreciate the committee's long-standing support of an independent airport authority and look forward to working with you to position one of Connecticut's greatest assets for improved economic success.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony. I appreciate your consideration.