

Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee  
March 7, 2011

Governor's Bill HB 6387: An Act Concerning  
Personal Property Tax Exemptions

Senate Bill No. 1007, entitled An Act Concerning the  
Governor's Recommendations on Revenue

Testimony Submitted by:

Curt Lindholm  
CEO  
Double Diamond Aviation, LLC

Senator Daily, Representative Widlitz, Senator Roraback, Representative Williams and members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, my name is Curt Lindholm and I am CEO of Double Diamond Aviation, LLC

Double Diamond Aviation, LLC. ("Double Diamond") appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony to the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee on HB 6387 and Senate Bill No. 1007. For the reasons set forth below, Double Diamond firmly believes that the bills, if enacted, will have serious negative consequences for the State of Connecticut including substantially reducing the general aviation industry's business in Connecticut, reducing tax and other revenues derived from the general aviation industry and causing a substantial loss of jobs in the general aviation industry in Connecticut.

I would like to go back to the 1980's and discuss Combustion Engineering, a Connecticut Company with headquarters in Stamford, CT and manufacturing/engineering/R&D in the Hartford area. They owned Falcon and Gulfstream jets and based them at White Plains Airport, NY. Most business days they ran a shuttle from Bradley to Chattanooga, TN and back. They wanted to base their aircraft at Bradley but the personal property tax was too severe so the aircraft were based at White Plains and they flew the empty legs every day from White Plains to Bradley and back to avoid paying the personal property tax. That's how this industry operates.

As for Double Diamond, we are "bolted" to the ground at Oxford. Our business model was low taxes would bring people/aircraft here and fill our hangar. It's full today but the proposed bill will empty the hangar and with it lost revenue and Connecticut jobs. When jobs move, you loose State income tax, sales tax, personal property tax, not to mention lost revenue at restaurants, gas stations, accountants, lawyers, etc. When aircraft move, you loose fuel gross receipt tax, fuel flowage fee, 10% tax on office space and loss of 1K income. This is a poison pill for general aviation in Connecticut. Thank you.