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Finance@cga.ct.gov

Honorable Eileen M. Daily
Honorable Patricia M. Widlitz
Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

I respectfully submit this written testimony in opposition to HB 6387 and SB 1007, which modifies Section 29 (77) of Section 12-412 of the Connecticut Codes.

I am president of Friends Of Sikorsky Airport (FOSA). We are an organization of 655 members who use, support and promote Sikorsky Memorial Airport. Our members include individual aircraft owners, corporations, aircraft operators who are based at Sikorsky Memorial Airport and use the Airport for business. I have been a pilot for over 50 years. I have been a Flight Instructor for most of that time and I have flown for corporations and managed aircraft for individuals and businesses. I also fly the Search and Rescue Helicopter, Eagle One as a volunteer pilot. I am an airplane owner. Most airplane owners are not wealthy individuals. In order for me to own an airplane, I built my own airplane.

Friends Of Sikorsky Airport is opposed to both of the provisions of the above bills. If enacted, aircraft owners will find it impossible to keep an airplane because of the added personal property tax on aircraft and the rescinding of the sales tax exemption on aircraft parts. Corporations and owners of large business aircraft will relocate to the surrounding states. When a small airplane owner sells his or her airplane, that airplane will surely leave Connecticut. When that happens, the operators will no longer be selling fuel and servicing those airplanes. When a company with a large business airplane leaves Connecticut, from three to five or more employees will be out of work or will have left Connecticut. The revenue stream downturn from this happening will impact every airport in Connecticut and the surrounding communities. Not only will the airports be impacted, the small and large businesses around airports will suffer.

It is my hope that this Committee will see the number of people at risk and the value that aviation plays in Connecticut.

Respectfully submitted,

David H. Faile, Jr.
203 218-8688

[40 Cider Mill, Fairfield, CT 06824-2831](http://www.fosa.org)