

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:
Eric Zipkin
President
Tradewind Aviation, LLC

Senator Daily, Representative Widlitz, Senator Roraback, Representative Williams and members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, my name is Eric Zipkin and I am the founder and president of Tradewind Aviation.

Tradewind Aviation, LLC. ("Tradewind") 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, Tradewind 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 founded Tradewind in 2001, originally basing the company in Westchester County, NY. Due to the favorable tax treatment and generally friendly business environment of Connecticut, I moved the business to Danbury in 2002 and later to Waterbury-Oxford in 2004.

Tradewind currently employs over 60 highly skilled personnel in Connecticut. These people live in the State, pay taxes and otherwise contribute to the overall economic health of the State. Tradewind pays considerable fuel flowage fees to the State of Connecticut and generates rental income to the State through its sub-lease of facilities at the Waterbury-Oxford Airport.

98% of Tradewind's operations originate outside of the State of Connecticut. Our aircraft usually pick up passengers in New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts. Because our aircraft and our business is completely portable, if HB 6387 and Senate Bill No. 1007 are enacted, Tradewind will move back to New York. Connecticut will be deprived of the tax revenue and spending the State. Furthermore, Tradewind employees who are unable to relocate to New York will lose their jobs and become a burden on the already over taxed unemployment insurance system.

I strongly urge the members of this Committee to consider the severe negative impact HB 6387 and Senate Bill No. 1007 will cause to the State and its inhabitants.