



**TESTIMONY OF SANDRA B. JOHNSON, EDP  
VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT  
METROHARTFORD ALLIANCE  
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 6139: *An Act Increasing the  
Independence of the Board of Directors of Bradley International Airport*  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
February 23rd, 2011**

Good afternoon, Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero and members of the Committee. I had the opportunity to present testimony last week before Commerce and appreciate the opportunity to come before you today. Specifically, I am here to request your endorsement for greater autonomy for the Bradley International Airport Board of Directors – autonomy in composition of the Board and responsibility of the Board.

My name is Sandra Johnson and I am Vice President and Director of Business Development, domestic and international, for the MetroHartford Alliance. The Alliance is the Hartford region's lead economic development organization and the only fully accredited economic development organization in the State. I lead the business recruitment, retention and expansion efforts for the Hartford Region and sit on the Bradley Development League Board as well as the CEDAS Board.

With our focus on creating jobs, retaining and attracting talent and attracting capital investment to the region and State, we need to be maximizing every asset. As an economic developer, I see Bradley International as one of our strongest, underleveraged assets. Today, we can witness where our global economic reset has created some winners and some losers. The businesses that are nimble and able to be responsive to markets and conditions have been successful. Bradley International also needs to be nimble to fully achieve its potential and successfully compete with other airports.

There is a new term developing – aerotropolis. Where rail hubs once created the centers of commerce and development, airports are now being viewed as the 21<sup>st</sup> century equivalent, further amping up our competition. We appeal to you, our legislators to embrace that vision and provide Bradley with every opportunity to open the door to greater business prospects for our State and region.