



Testimony Regarding

Governor's Bill No. 1003 - *AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT AIRPORT AUTHORITY*

The Bradley Development League is the consortium of the four towns around Bradley International Airport: East Granby, Suffield, Windsor and Windsor Locks. We work cooperatively to market the airport region.

The BDL has previously provided testimony on two bills that would provide the Bradley International Airport Board of Directors additional power to help ensure important decisions are made in a timely and strategic manner.

This current bill would establish a new Connecticut Airport Authority which would incorporate Bradley International Airport, but would also add five general aviation airports. This new Authority would have the powers that are needed to operate these airports in a way that will enhance marketing and economic development while ensuring top-quality transportation facilities.

Airports are becoming increasingly competitive and in order to enhance Bradley's position in the marketplace the Airport Authority needs to have the power and tools to act quickly and effectively.

At times, the constraints by which DOT must operate relative to new airport hires and contracting activities hamper Bradley's ability to reach its full economic potential. For instance, the last two times that the Bradley Marketing Director position was vacant it took 12 to 18 months to name replacements and that is far too long for such a strategic position related to route development to be left vacant. The most recent Marketing Director received a more competitive offer from Dallas-Fort Worth airport. It is important for Bradley to be able to offer top-quality talent salaries that are competitive with other airports.

This new Authority would be faced with many important decisions related to Bradley including:

- Implementing millions of dollars of capital improvements identified in the Bradley Master Plan including the replacement of the obsolete Murphy Terminal;
- Establishing new direct domestic routes and providing the lowest possible fares to those destinations