

Testimony of Eric W. Gjede
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Before the Transportation Committee
Hartford, CT
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Testifying in support of HB 5461 AAC Revision To Statutes Relating To The Connecticut Airport
Authority

Good morning Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Senator Boucher, Representative Scribner, and members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Eric Gjede and I am assistant counsel at the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA), which represents more than 10,000 large and small companies throughout the state of Connecticut.

CBIA Supports HB 5461.

The business community supports HB 5461 because it provides greater independence for the Connecticut Airport Authority.

In several recent nationwide surveys, Connecticut's transportation system was not portrayed in a favorable light. One reason for this is that our transportation system acts as a barrier to the flow of commerce. There is no single solution to the state's transportation problems. Rather, we must expand, improve and streamline our transportation resources on all fronts in order to boost our economic capabilities. A key piece to improving our state ranking is to improve our airports.

We applaud this committee for raising this bill, which will provide administrative flexibility to the Connecticut Airport Authority. This is critically important if we are to achieve the full economic potential of our state's airports.

Thank you for raising HB 5461.