



**Testimony Regarding House Bill No. 5878, An Act Expanding Municipal Revenue Streams**

Kevin A. Dillon, A.A.E.  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Airport Authority

Joint Committee on Planning and Development  
March 6, 2015

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Miller, Senator Linares, Representative Aman, and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee,

My name is Kevin Dillon, and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA). **I am submitting this testimony in opposition to certain proposals within House Bill No. 5878, An Act Expanding Municipal Revenue Streams.**

The CAA opposes language in this legislation that would add a ten percent increase in the hotel tax and a public parking facility surcharge. Over the past few years, the legislature has considered similar bills that would increase costs for airport-related services and industries. Any increase in costs would likely be passed on to the consumer, and this dynamic makes our state airports less competitive when compared to neighboring states. A traveler's total expenses factor into his or her decision to use a particular airport for travel, and the expectation of higher hotel and parking fees could be enough to tip the scale towards other regional airports.

Bradley International Airport experienced tremendous growth in 2014, and this legislation could impact the momentum that the CAA has worked so hard to build. Increasing fees at our state hotels, public parking facilities, or even rental car companies could erode our competitive advantage, diminish the economic driving potential of our state airports, and weaken the state's tourism efforts, which have already been scaled back after substantial budget cuts. While the CAA understands the budgetary difficulties faced by our municipal partners, the dynamics outlined above could place an added burden on our state economy.

The CAA respectfully requests that the language in House Bill No. 5878 be amended to remove an increase to the hotel tax and a public parking facility surcharge. Furthermore, the CAA urges the committee and the legislature at-large to keep the competitive stance of our state airports in mind when considering legislation that could force travelers away from our state economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please feel free to contact my office at (860) 292-2054 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kevin A. Dillon'.

Kevin A. Dillon, A.A.E.  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Airport Authority