



*Bridging Business & Community*

Re: Testimony of Susan R. Bailey and Al Valente, Co-Chairs, Groton Business Association on HB 6367 regarding the AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT ZONE in Groton, Connecticut; February 9, 2015

Gentlemen:

The Groton Business Association (GBA) is pleased to testify in support of this bill that would allow Groton to shift the boundaries of a proposed airport development zone (ADZ) around the Groton-New London Airport from *unusable* land areas to totally *usable* land areas as originally intended by the authors of the ADZ initiative.

The GBA's mission is to enrich the overall economic vitality of Groton, and we believe the reconfiguration of the ADZ's *standard* radius will make more of Groton's *developable* land tracts available for manufacturers and distributors to locate here and potentially provide for additional jobs. The shift would also extend the ADZ to the state pier in New London thus giving them the same opportunities to attract manufacturing and/or distribution companies, especially in light of the proposed improvements to the central rail lines which could add more synergy to that location.

Because the Groton-New London Airport is located on the shoreline of Long Island Sound, most of the two mile radius circle stated in the standard ADZ would be under water. Additionally, in its current state, the two mile radius would overlap the Thames River, our central reservoirs, and both state and town parks, none of which can be developed, thus not fulfilling the original intent of the ADZ. However, creatively shifting the border from a pure circle to a variegated border encompassing roughly the same land area would make more usable land available. It would, in fact, now overlap with Groton's available choice industrially-zoned locations on Rt. 184, Rt. 12, and Flanders Road.

In conclusion, we feel that this newly configured ADZ, with its added developable land, will attract business investors and jobs to Groton and New London now and into the future. We urge the approval of this bill for the economic future of all of Southeastern Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Susan R. Bailey

Al Valente