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Testimony before the Transportation Committee  
Regarding Proposed H.B. 6367  
Submitted by Ned Hammond, Economic Development Coordinator  
City of New London, Connecticut  
February 11, 2015

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Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ned Hammond and I am the Economic Development Coordinator for the City of New London. I am here today to testify in support of Proposed House Bill No. 6367, an Act Concerning a Change to the Boundaries of the Groton-New London Airport Development Zone.

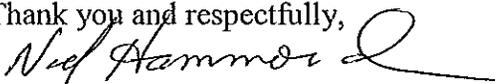
I would like to thank this Committee for the opportunity to testify in support of this legislation. I would also like to thank Representative Bumgardner for introducing this bill and thank Kristin Clarke and the Town of Groton for taking the leading role in the effort to establish a Groton-New London Airport Development Zone.

My statement today is brief since by the end of this public hearing you will have received quite a lot of information about the merits of an Airport Development Zone for the Groton-New London Airport and reasonable justifications for adjusting the boundary of the Zone. This adjustment would entail moving the center point of the zone from the Groton-New London Airport to a point north of the airport and maintaining the statutory two-mile radius from that point. In turn, this adjustment would then include three key development areas in the City of New London. One area includes seven parcels in the Fort Trumbull peninsula comprising nearly 23 acres of land made ready for development. A second area encompasses the Central Business District in downtown New London. And the third area surrounds the State Pier, a predominantly commercial area, and includes some undeveloped land and several large commercial buildings some of which are underutilized. For all of these areas the Airport Development Zone will provide an important factor for businesses considering their next location and/or expansion decision.

The significance of adjusting the boundary of the Airport Development Zone should not be understated not only as it relates to the City of New London but also how the adjustment will increase opportunities to provide attractive business development incentives for additional commercial land in the Town of Groton that would not otherwise be eligible without the adjustment.

The name of the Groton-New London Airport not only suggests that the airport is a regional airport but it also signifies a long-standing spirit of cooperation between the municipalities of Groton and New London. A new Groton-New London Airport Development Zone with the adjusted boundary will not only further strengthen this bond between our municipalities but it may just be the ticket that leads to an increase in services and new business enterprises at the airport itself.

Thank you and respectfully,

  
Ned Hammond, Economic Development Coordinator