



Testimony in Opposition to SB 402, An Act Establishing the Connecticut Infrastructure Bank

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

Joint Committee on Commerce
March 10, 2016

Dear Senator Hartley, Representative Perone, Senator Frantz, Representative Camillo, and distinguished members of the Commerce 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 SB 402, An Act Establishing the Connecticut Infrastructure Bank.**

After reviewing the language, the CAA is unclear on the exact intent of this legislation. If the intent is to create a quasi-public agency that serves as a voluntary financing mechanism for public and private entities undertaking infrastructure projects, the CAA believes that the proposal could have merit. Much like the Connecticut Green Bank serves as an accelerator for clean energy projects in the State, this organization could serve as a catalyst for much-needed infrastructure improvements across Connecticut. However, the CAA would be very troubled if the Connecticut Infrastructure Bank was envisioned as the required primary financing vehicle for all state and federal dollars pertaining to infrastructure projects. In this scenario, the Bank would duplicate services that the CAA currently provides for aviation purposes. Section 4 seems to indicate that the Infrastructure Bank may be expected to supersede the CAA as the manager of state and federal grants for airport-related projects. This new organization would lack the technical knowledge necessary to maximize the use of state bond funds for Connecticut's general aviation airports. It also could have legal implications regarding Connecticut's eligibility for federal funds, as the FAA can only provide federal monies directly to airport sponsors for airport projects. The CAA was created to serve as the specialized and dedicated quasi-public agency for aviation in Connecticut, and the Authority respectfully requests that the Committee make further revisions to Section 4 of SB 402 to ensure that the CAA is properly empowered to continue serving its mission.

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,

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