

July 19, 2016

To: Committee Members of Program, Review and Investigations Committee.

I've been on the field since the 60s as first a student, then an instructor, eventually a mechanic and most recently retired as an FAA Designated Airworthiness Representative gaining first hand knowledge of the great benefits of Brainard Airport.

There have been other efforts to eliminate or reduce Brainard Airport for the benefit of a relatively small number of citizens over the years and all have failed. What is different now?

A good many of us have participated in the meetings involved developing a master plan for Aviation and Airports in the State of CT. That would need a complete and expensive remake or leave major gaps in the plan if Brainard were to exist on a lesser basis or be eliminated.

There is a need to consider the impact on Bradley Airport and surrounding fields of reducing or closing Brainard Airport. Brainard Airport is classified as a 'reliever airport' for KBDL

The resources being applied to this study could be much better used for other much more pressing areas in our State of Connecticut at this time.

Connecticut is in a squeeze for resources for it's current programs and systems. Is this the time to expand that? More bond debt is not an appropriate solution.

When improved vocational education provides a clear path for quality employment and much money is being spent on education focused directly on that, one can wonder why anyone would consider closing the CT AERO TECH School at Brainard. That is a totally short sighted solution.

Area companies in the region benefit greatly from, and appreciate the flow of graduates into their doors. These technicians are well trained employees that will come from our own local CT AERO TECH Aviation Technical School located at Brainard Field.

We have businesses on the field some of which have existed and grown over 30 years? They are actually seeking more staff to deal with their workload. Some of those would come from the aviation tech school on the airport today.

The state police and homeland security find Brainard a very effective and centrally located facility from which to conduct a large majority of their missions.

The Civil Air Patrol shares that enthusiasm for the presence of Brainard for their ever increasingly critical role and missions to be flown.

Our hospitals are served by Life Star Helicopters that operate routinely out of Brainard. Who wants them to travel another 20 miles into likely dense traffic at Bradley? A half hour saved in a life threatening rescue mission can save a life.

Who wants to lose this historic airport from which Charles Lindberg launched his 1927 tour here to promote aviation throughout the United States and beyond? It would be an insult to the pioneers who set the pace to simply put up a memorial plaque or statue.

I appreciate the opportunity to present my views on this critically important discussion.

Thank You

Joseph Gauthier, 9 Kowal Drive, Cromwell CT 06416

[N22607@aol.com](mailto:N22607@aol.com), 860 604 1582