

Tim Courtney
140 Huyshope Ave, APT 519
Hartford, CT 06106

20 July 2016

Program, Review and Investigations Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
State Capitol Room 506
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Chairman, Ranking Members, and Committee Members of the Program, Review, and Investigations Committee,

This letter is to voice my support as a Hartford resident for the continued operation of Brainard Airport. When I moved to Connecticut from Chicago in 2013, I chose to live in Hartford because of the proximity and access to Brainard Airport. Over the past two summers, I have earned my private pilot certificate and instrument rating here. I'm a member of the Connecticut Flight Club based at Brainard and plan to earn my commercial pilot certificate in 2017.

The city of Hartford is not fully leveraging the airport as a unique urban asset. Opportunities include:

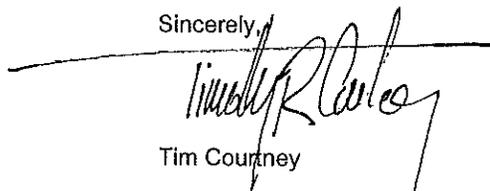
- Establishment of an Airport Development Zone around Brainard to create new jobs, attract capital, and increase tax revenue for the city and the state.
- Securing and promoting scheduled and charter air service, such as fast and efficient connections to the region's islands.
- Promoting state Department of Education priorities for STEM career training through partnerships linking local public high schools and colleges with educational programs such as CT Aero Tech, Civil Air Patrol, and flight schools based at Brainard Airport.
- Improving community connectivity to Brainard Airport for education, community service, and family-friendly entertainment through airshows and aviation-related events.

I urge the Committee to refine the research questions in this study, or conduct a separate study if appropriate, and identify opportunities to:

1. Maximize economic value of the surrounding South Green neighborhood with Brainard Airport as part of the ecosystem.
2. Outline the full, unrealized value of Brainard Airport as an asset to Hartford, the Capitol Area, and the state.

Without answering the above, there is no baseline against which to compare the impact of closing the airport and pursuing other developments. As a Hartford resident and pilot, I hope Brainard Airport plays a significant role in the future of the city and region. I look forward to the Committee's complete report that fully outlines the unrealized value Brainard Airport can provide to the city and region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Courtney", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Tim Courtney