



Testimony in Support of Section 1 of House Bill No. 7374, An Act Concerning the Connecticut Airport and Aviation Account and Reducing the Rate of Sales and Use Taxes on Dyed Diesel Fuel Used for Marine Purposes.

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

Joint Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding
April 10, 2019

Dear Senator Fonfara, Representative Rojas, Senator Witkos, Representative Davis, and distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee,

My name is Kevin Dillon, and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA). **I am submitting this testimony in support of Section 1 of House Bill No. 7374, An Act Concerning the Connecticut Airport and Aviation Account and Reducing the Rate of Sales and Use Taxes on Dyed Diesel Fuel Used for Marine Purposes.** The CAA thanks the committee for taking up this important matter.

Section 1 would adjust the administration of the Connecticut Airport and Aviation Account, which is a nonlapsing account within the Grants and Restricted Accounts Fund. The legislature created this account in 2017 to bring the state into compliance with federal regulations that require that aviation fuel tax revenues be utilized for the benefit of aviation in the states that they are generated. Currently, a portion of the state's aviation fuel tax revenues are deposited into the account by the Department of Revenue Services, and the funding is then sent by the Department of Transportation and the Office of Policy and Management to the CAA and Tweed-New Haven Airport. The CAA utilizes the funding for its five general aviation airports, as well as the grant program that the CAA administers for all airports across the state, excluding Bradley. Since the funding changes hands so many times and requires approval processes along the way, the funding has been very delayed in reaching the CAA. In fact, we had to temporarily suspend the 2018 state grant program due to these funding delays. Since the state is federally required to use the funding for aviation purposes, and since the CAA is the statewide regulatory body for aviation matters, this legislation would allow the CAA to directly receive funding from the account to cut down on unnecessary delays.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony. Please feel free to contact me at (860) 292-2054 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kevin A. Dillon'.

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