

CHAIRPERSONS: Senator Bob Duff,
Representative Julio
Concepcion

SENATORS: Formica, Kelly, Kushner,
Looney, Moore

REPRESENTATIVES: Godfrey, Kennedy, Quinn,
Vargas, Yaccarino

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Okay. Good morning,
everybody. And I'll officially call the Executive
and Legislative Nominations Meeting to order, the
Public Hearing, for Monday, May 10th, 2021. We want
to welcome everybody here today. We have one, two,
three, four, five, six people who we are hearing.

And I will want to thank the Committee in advance
because, generally, we do not go this late into the
session for Exec Noms. But so I want to thank
everybody for their help and getting this done and
continuing to make sure that the business of State
Government and used to grind away. So -- and the
gears -- the gears move on and we get everything
accomplished we need to get accomplished. So thank
you.

First, we will hear on item number one on the agenda
to an H.R. risk -- resolution for Theodore M.
Doolittle of West Hartford to be the Healthcare
Advocate. Mr. Doolittle, are you there?

THEODORE DOOLITTLE: Yes. Can you hear me, Senator?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): All right. Great. Just mind
you -- see if you're on my screen here, which -- oh,
there you are. Okay. And would you please raise
your right hand for me? Right. You promise --
swear, affirm to tell us the truth, the whole truth
and nothing but the truth?

THEODORE DOOLITTLE: Yes.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Okay, thank you. And feel free to make an opening statement.

THEODORE DOOLITTLE: Thank you so much, Senator Duff, I appreciate the opportunity to come before the Committee for the second time. I was nominated and confirmed for this position but more than four years, I wish to thank [inaudible] for putting my name forward. But you may know this is more of a Legislative nomination than an Executive nomination because my name is put forward to the Governor by the OHAA, the Office of Healthcare Advocate Advisory Committee, which is composed exclusively of Legislative selections.

And so I would like to thank the Members of that Committee, Dr. Mark de Whaley, Dina Berlin, Lynn Iyed, Susan Helpin, and Steve Wanzikarp for their confidence in me and putting me forward for another term. And I would certainly like to thank you, Senator Duff, Representative Concepcion, Senator Formica, and Representative Kennedy, as well as a special thank you to Senator Looney who has been over the years a strong advocate for the Office of Health Care Advocate.

It's an honor to come before you today. I laid forth my credentials and some testimony that I hope that you have. Happy to go over them or answer any other questions as well. But, again, privileged to be here. And I look forward to the opportunity to continuing my career in public service. Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Great, thank you. We appreciate that very much. So -- and for the -- for the folks at home who are watching on YouTube or somewhere online, CTN, can you talk a little bit about what the Office of Healthcare Advocate does in your role and what -- kind of what you -- what's happened over the last four years, I guess?

THEODORE DOOLITTLE: Sure. So the Office of the Healthcare Advocate is really the best-kept secret in state government. I know that you as Representatives are familiar with our work because you refer your constituents to us. The constituents you refer to us have some type of issue with their health insurance coverage. Be that Medicare, be that HUSKY or be that a commercial plan.

We have a staff of nurses attorneys, paralegals and others who are here to help folks like you and your constituents, your loved ones. Anybody who lives in Connecticut or, crucially, who works for a company headquartered in Connecticut can avail themselves of our services, if you just need advice on a -- selecting a plan when you have a choice, how to navigate the signup process with access health C.T. or our bread and butter work is helping folks who have had a claim denied or prior authorization denied, you're sick, a family member is sick, and you're facing administrative bureaucracy like you've never believed. You're not alone in Connecticut due to the wisdom of this body in 1999. And then again, in 2005, when the statute was renovated, you have a staff of, again, nurses, paralegals, attorneys, and others, who are ready to help you for free.

We, also, Senator Duff, as you know, act as the voice of the health insurance consumer on policy matters, and try to advise this body, the Governor, the insurance department, other sister agencies like DSS, and work collaboratively with industry as well to promote reforms that are pro-consumer. Some of the activities that of note in the past few years, when I took over, we did a very successful listening tour entitled "Connecticut Speaks Out". We had listening sessions in all corners of the state to -- for me to get to know the needs of your constituents and my fellow citizens. And also to, of course, always promote what I, again, referred to as the best-kept secret in state government.

We, also, just to remind folks, one important activity we had was we, as part of a Bill that was passed two years ago, a high deductible health plan reform task force was formed. And OHA was asked to helm that, and we held a series of hearings with national experts from Washington, D.C. and all over the country, really, who came in to testify. We produced a report for this Legislature that was delivered to you in February of 2020 right before of course, the pandemic hit. But I hope that we'll be able to, in future sessions, revive some of the reform proposals there. So that's a little bit, Senator Duff about the -- our work here and service to your constituents, and also some of the activities of the past several years that had been significant.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Okay, great. Thank you. And I just want to follow up for you. What do you -- I guess, over the last year or so at the pandemic, what have you seen, kind of as some of your biggest issues, I guess?

THEODORE DOOLITTLE: Well, of course, we like, everybody else, did not know exactly what was going to happen. We thought we might be deluged with a lot of cases as people tried to get testing and so forth. The state government and the industry, the health insurance industry really performed admirably. And there were -- there were some issues around early on around the -- how to pay for testing. But that's all been straightened out.

As everybody on this call probably knows, during the pandemic, health claims went way down. So there wasn't -- we had been bracing for a flood of insurance appeals. But it actually lightened up somewhat, which, of course, gave us a chance to move to full remote work, very proud of the work that our I.T. folks did. Over the past years, and especially during the crunch time, at the start of the pandemic, the agency is fully remote, essentially, at this point. I personally have been going in most

of the days to handle some minor administrative tasks like scanning the mail, but we've moved very effectively to full remote service. Everybody working from home, and using, of course, this type of environment, Zoom and others to stay in touch. So that's -- I hope that's responsive, Senator Duff, but it's --

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Yeah.

THEODORE DOOLITTLE: What's been going on?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thanks. I'm going to -- I have a maybe a couple more questions. But I'm going to open it up to Members of the Committee if anybody has questions, Representative Kennedy?

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And welcome, Mr. Doolittle. Good to see you again, Ted. I was fortunate enough to do a listening session with your with your Chairman covered most of the questions I had. I'm just looking to as, hopefully, we're coming out of this pandemic and looking at what are some of the goals for you for OHA?

THEODORE DOOLITTLE: Yeah, so I continue to look for ways, Representative Kennedy, to end the best-kept secret in state government status. So in the next few years, I hope to develop some strategies to bring us more to the attention.

We -- there are already is a statute that if there's a claim denial, our name and address has to appear along with the insurance department that in the way that is handled by the insurance varies widely and in some cases, it's buried way back in the boiler plate. I would like to see that be more prominent, and hope to work with industry in a collaborative way to try to accomplish that. If not, there will, I think, in the future, say a year or two from now, if we're not able to get more prominent notices, we may be coming to this Legislature recommending some type of fixed. As I mentioned, there's already

statute on the books that requires them to put our name and address in there. And in the long run, I would like to see that much more prominent. So that is something that could be coming down the pike at Committee.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Thank you, Mr. Doolittle. Mr. Chairman, just a follow up. I'm really glad to hear that as you did refer and as we've spoken before, you are the best-kept secret. And you can do a lot of work for our constituents. So moving forward, it'd be great to have some more dialogue. So I appreciate you actually confirming the reappointment. And I wish you the best. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you. Thank, Representative. Any other questions for Members of the Committee?

Just to follow up, Ted, the -- there's issues surrounding private practices merging with hospitals and primary physicians? And are you seeing any issues with that in your office at all -- people contacting you? Just a consolidation also, I guess, I could say in the more general way too.

THEODORE DOOLITTLE: Yeah. Well, we do sometimes get those types of inquiries. My concern, as a health care policy advocate around the consolidation, is with the price impact that those consolidations, unfortunately, all too often have. They're often presented as being saving measures. But then that doesn't necessarily eventuate. And as I mentioned, in my here -- first year in four years ago, the cost of health care is really a crisis in this country, we have an internationally abnormal level of prices. And it really is an albatross and a ball and chain around the legs of business and, and not just in Connecticut, but in our country to have to pay, literally, twice as much for the health care for a -- one's employees as our wealthy economic competitors overseas.

So, Senator Duff when we're talking about consolidation, that's the first thing that springs to mind. In terms of my concern, we do sometimes get complaints, somebody who has gone to a particular practice or practitioner for years, and then it gets consolidated. And for the first time, they then see what's called a facility fee, which is, you know, the doctor's fee plus an added facility fee bump. And that can cause all kind of consternation and increase in costs. So those are the two areas that, I think, of when we're talking about the consolidation.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Right. I think there is a -- definitely concern there for sure, and other ways in which facilities -- or I don't want to say hospitals. I don't want to put them just on the spot, but others in the healthcare universe that, you know, find creative ways to make money in a way that doesn't always benefit the consumer. Because as with the -- with the facilities, fees, or other types of costs, we've seen, where a consumer will it, you know, one minute, you know, say, on a Monday, it'll cost, you know, X amount of money and then on a Friday, once something's been merged or consolidated it cost Y.

And it's a big -- and it's a big jump for somebody, especially if they do have a high deductible plan or if they have -- where their insurance company says, "You know what? We're just not paying that because it's -- it -- you know, it's not that -- we don't view it, as necessary." And then the consumer is kind of out there on their own fighting that and I imagine that to make they may call you or somebody else?

TED DOLITTLE: Yes, I will comment in that regard, I will give a shout out to the Office of Health Strategy. They have the function there. That's the relatively new office within the Office of the Governor. But they have the hospital merger and

acquisition oversight function. And the past couple in the state, they have very wisely, in my opinion, included in part of their approval, a limitation on the price increases that can occur. So that's very, very good, and strong.

I believe, though, that that law only last a couple of years. I would love to see that type of guarantee that you're not going to get those price boosts that you talked about extended either longer into the future or indefinitely. But you're absolutely right, Senator Duff, about that problem.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Okay, thank you. My last question is the Legislature just passed by no -- no, we have -- we all did because the House Bill Senate last week, passed the telehealth for two years. From the standpoint of access or ensuring that everyone has the ability to utilize that, do you -- are their pluses and minuses you see about that policy? I was -- the pluses are pretty obvious, I guess. But are there any kind of dangers or things we need to consider as a Legislature? Because we only did a two-year extension? But are there things that you think we need to be mindful of while we have this kind of two year run for telehealth?

THEODORE DOOLITTLE: Yeah. Well, I certainly urge this body and the -- that the Governor's administration to use the two years to gather information about what is working and what's not so that at the end, this body can make the best decision as to whether and how to extend it.

Obviously, the telehealth is critical. I certainly think, Senator Duff, that especially in a time of pandemic, and, frankly, even once we get past this, the pluses vastly outweigh the minuses. You know, we do have to make sure that the issues around the correct pricing are addressed. Right now there's parity and we'll have to work to discover with industry, with the insurance companies, as well as the providers what the right pricing level is, and

whether parity is right or whether there is some other solution.

For right now, I'm very grateful that the pandemic regulation was in place to allow us all to get our care and also to provide a course needed financial support for providers, some of whom are very small. You know, I'm thinking of an individual counselor who just has a solo practice. This was critical. And I'm glad that the two year -- the two-year period in other words, Senator Duff, should be a time of study to make sure that we know what to do, what the best thing for our community is at the end of the two years.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Okay, thank you. And thanks for -- thanks to -- delve into the Committee. And I just thought it was important to ask these kinds of questions, because healthcare is just such a large part of our economy and a large part of our lives. And we do hear from constituents on health care issues, repeatedly throughout the year, probably this as much as anything else. So while we had you, Ted, I just thought it was a good idea to expand a little bit on this. And I certainly know Senator Looney, Ron, he would be talking about some of these things as well, because he's -- he has spent so much time working on legislation with regard to improving health care access, and advocacy as well.

Any other questions from Members of the Committee? No. Okay. So now I got to ask the question here that we asked everybody. Is there anything in your past that you believe might prove to be embarrassing to this Committee, the Governor, or the State of Connecticut?

THEODORE DOOLITTLE: Unfortunately, no. I didn't. It's been a pretty boring life over here. I don't think there's anything to embarrass you or the Governor.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Okay. All right. Thank you so much. I appreciate it. And if folks are not on testifying, you feel free to turn your camera off and mute yourself but you're welcome to stand as long as you like. So thanks, Ted. Appreciate it.

THEODORE DOOLITTLE: Thank you, sir. Thanks to everybody.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you. All right, we're going to skip over Len Fasano right now. He'll be out hopefully soon. Next we'll go to House Joint Resolutions, item number two on our agenda. Next, we have House Joint Resolution referring Mishone Donelson of Farmington to be a Member of the Connecticut Airport Authority Board of Directors. Good morning, sir.

MISHONE DONELSON: Good morning.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): How are you?

MISHONE DONELSON: I'm doing well. Thanks. How are you?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Good. Thank you. Could you raise your right hand for me, please? Thank you. Do you promise, swear, affirm tells truth, whole truth, and nothing but truth?

MISHONE DONELSON: I do.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): All right. Thank you. And can you feel it -- well, feel free to provide an opening statement.

MISHONE DONELSON: Great. Thank you. Good morning, Senator Duff, Senator Kelly, Senator Looney, Representative Concepcion, Representative Kennedy, and Distinguished Members of the Executive and Legislation Legislative Nominations Committee. My name is Mishone Donelson, and I'm honored to appear before you as Governor Lamont's nomination for the

Connecticut Airport Authority Board of Directors. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before the community -- Committee to share my experience and qualifications with you and my desire to serve on the Board.

I'm currently a resident of Farmington and a managing Director at Horizon Technology Finance in Farmington. And my company is a venture debt investment technology and life sciences companies. Prior to being at Horizon, I also worked at a venture capital fund to funds here in West Hartford. And given these prior experiences, I've had to utilize Bradley Airport frequently and understand the corporate usage of the state's five airports.

In addition to the financial experience that I bring to the Board, I also have prior Board and Committee experience having served on numerous boards around the greater Hartford community in a variety of different capacities. I currently serve on the Board of Miss Porter School. I've also served as a Board Member of Harper Youth Scholars for the past seven years. And I've also served on the Boards of Community Health services, The Ethel Walker School and for City Works. And I've also served on the Town of West Hartford Risk Management Advisory Board prior to moving to Farmington.

I bring to the Connecticut Airport Authority Board of Directors a willingness and desire to serve, extensive experience in financial services, Board experience, a sound business judgment, and the utmost integrity. I look forward to helping set policies related to developing, improving, and operating the five aviation airports in the state, as well as playing an integral role in helping to expand airport operations to include new routes commerce and business. The Connecticut Airport Authority seems to help drive a positive impact on the state's economy and if confirmed, it will be an honor to play a role in its success. And I thank you for the opportunity to present my experience and

capabilities. And I'm honored to have the opportunity to serve this great State of Connecticut.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you very much, and congratulations on your appointment. This is your first -- your first nomination?

MISHONE DONELSON: Yes, it is.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Okay. Okay, great. Thank you. And from your standpoint, I live in Fairfield County, so Bradley is a little bit on the other side of the -- of the universe for me. But I have flown out of Bradley, you're a little closer to it. What is -- from your standpoint of the last few years since the airport authority has been in tact in existence, what are some of the changes that you've seen as a -- as a commuter? Or somebody who's utilized the airport versus how it was before? And where do you think the airport should go in the future?

MISHONE DONELSON: Yeah, so I can tell you -- so I'd moved to Connecticut in 2008 and, frequently, use the airport and definitely notice a number of different improvements over time. So I definitely know that there have been expansion of routes to different cities, primarily direct routes. I know there was a point in time where to get to most places, you have to take two flights to get there. And so having some of those direct routes to key cities, has been really great.

I've also noticed a meaningful improvement in the parking situation at the airport, with the expansion of some of -- or decrease in some of the new lots. And then also aware of the movement of the car rental center, which is something I think would definitely be appreciated and a welcome change for new travelers -- who are travelers coming into the state looking to utilize those services. And then just in terms of the future going forward, I think

continual expansion of new routes to different locations would really help drive a lot of different traffic through the airport, and other improvements just to make the overall commuter experience more enjoyable.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Yeah, so there's some construction going on right now and expansion plans underway, I'm aware of. And my experience of Bradley was very positive is, you know, again, as somebody who's in Fairfield County, a lot of times we think of the New York airports first and, you know, it's -- it mileage wise, it's not that far. But from an aggravation and stress standpoint, it's very far. And sometimes going up to Bradley's actually the same amount of time, and it's a lot less stressful. And it's just easier to get in and be able to get through security and everything else. It's not quite the amount of people. So it's a nice, -- it's a nicer experience. And I think that that's probably is the sweet spot for Bradley. It's convenient, parking's easy, and there are an expansion of flights now. And I think there's a real effort to make the airport a little bit larger and provide that convenience for folks in there. Id' be a really nice regional hub.

MISHONE DONELSON: I agree.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Yeah, so thank you for that. I appreciate it. Do you have any thoughts on the -- from the other day, the announcement with Tweed and how that might impact Bradley?

MISHONE DONELSON: No. No additional thoughts on that at this point in time.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Yeah. Okay. Yeah. And that's, -- and we'll also see if something ever happens in Sikorsky and Bridgeport or not. I know, that's been an issue for decades as well. And so, we'll have to see how any of that stuff impacts Bradley, if at all. So, all right, thank you. Are

there any questions from Members of the Committee? At all -- I'm trying to see if there's any hands up at all. Any questions for Members of the Committee? There's two -- people who raise their hand. I'm sorry. Oh, yes. Representative Quinn, followed by Representative Kennedy.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Congratulations, Mr. Donelson, on your nomination?. You know, understanding that international travel, probably, is still at least a year away from really ramping back up to where it was. What do you think that the authority can do to make sure that Bradley gets that international route back, not only the route to Ireland, but also the routes that we used to have back and forth to Canada?

MISHONE DONELSON: Yeah, I mean I think it really is incumbent upon the authority to continue to interact with the airlines and those respective members of those airlines to express the importance of gaining those routes back and just trying to do everything that we can to maintain that.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Okay. And how about for domestic routes, we used to have more non-stops, they're starting to come back. JetBlue was announced a few non-stops out to the West Coast. But what incentives or what plans should the airport make to make sure that they are getting these routes back?

MISHONE DONELSON: Unfortunately, I'm not, at this point in time, aware of various incentives that are offered to airlines to establish those routes. But I think that there could be a strong business case made in terms of the population of people in these -- in the state and their surrounding states that could utilize the airport to help drive traffic on those airlines for those specific routes.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Okay, all right. Thank you very much. And again, congratulations on your nomination.

MISHONE DONELSON: Thank you.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): And thank you, Representative Quinn. Representative Kennedy, followed by Senator Formica.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And congratulations to Mr. Donelson on your appointment.

MISHONE DONELSON: Thank you.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): As we well know, the COVID-19 has certainly impacted the travel industry greatly, especially at Bradley, where the levels of travel rates are down tremendously. So marketing will be a huge thing -- impact to the airport itself. Myself -- I travel Bradley, more than going to New York, and it really has expanded over the years, but it's going to continue to expand. As far as marketing do you see working with various businesses in the areas to encourage travel and -- or not necessarily for travel -- but to market with our local businesses?

MISHONE DONELSON: Yes, I definitely believe that there are opportunities to work with local business to help drive their interest in desire to utilize the airport. Yeah, I don't have specific recommendations on that at this time.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Understand.

MISHONE DONELSON: But I definitely believe that having partnerships with -- and relate to strong relationships with various businesses and entities in this community will be really helpful and beneficial for the airport in the long run.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): I appreciate your response. And as you said in your opening remarks on

establishing new routes and, certainly, people do like to have direct flight. So I think overall -- but I have no other questions, more of a comment. So I just want to congratulate you, Mr. Donelson. And thank you when I wish you the best. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MISHONE DONELSON: Thank you very much.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you, Representative. Senator Formica?

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): Yes, good morning, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, everyone. Good morning, Mr. Donelson. Congratulations on your nomination. I have spoken with a number of folks from the airport authority and -- with regard to the difficulties that COVID have placed on income going in. Have you been able to look into any of that and form an opinion on how the airport comes back from the loss of revenue and flights over the COVID? Or is that something that you probably plan to get into once you -- once you take a seat?

MISHONE DONELSON: Yeah, so I had a conversation with the Executive Director just to hear about what is transpired over the last couple of years, especially as it pertain to COVID. And it's something that I would definitely like to be more involved in taking a stronger look at to determine how we can help bring back some of those lost revenues as a result of COVID.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): You know, some of the conversations we had with the Executive Director revolved around the retirement system, and all of that. So I think moving forward, certainly the recovery of revenue is incumbent on probably every business in the state or in the nation or in the world of coming out of what went through last year. But there are some fundamental issues that need -- I think, according to the Executive Director of the way to be addressed -- and that that is revenue

streams and fringe benefit rates and retirement systems. And so, I hope that we can get a good report back to the Legislature on how that looks as we move forward.

I traveled through Bradley this week, and it -- they've really done a very nice job with the airport. The parking is a problem. It was in -- you know, we had to go all the way up to the roof. And there was, I think, one left in there. And so some of the other outlying parking lots, I think, are going to be important. But I think it's a great asset to the -- to the state. And congratulations again on your service. And I look forward to hearing more from you and the Board moving forward. And thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MISHONE DONELSON: Thank you.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you, Senator.
Representative Vargas.

REP. VARGAS (6TH): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also want to congratulate Mr. Donelson on his appointment to the airport board. And I know we're laying a lot on you, considering you haven't had a chance to get your feet wet yet. But I always like to take this opportunity to remind people that in those negotiations with the airlines, just remember, Kingston, Jamaica, we have the largest West Indian population in this region, in the greater Hartford area and the second largest in the United States. And we're always looking forward to an opportunity to increase the ties between Jamaica and Connecticut. So anything you can do in helping moving when we get along down the road is to become more aware of what's going on and the negotiations that take place with the airlines, if you can help that process move along I really appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you. Any other questions from Members of the Committee? Okay. Any

other questions from Members of the Committee? I don't see anybody's hands up at all.

All right, sir. If there's no further questions, I'd like to again congratulate you. The one question we ask everybody. Is there anything in the past that you believe might be -- might prove to be embarrassing to the Committee of the Governor of the State of Connecticut?

MISHONE DONELSON: No, there is none.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Okay. Thank you very much.

MISHONE DONELSON: Appreciate it.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Have a great day.

MISHONE DONELSON: Thank you very much, you as well.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you. All right. Next we have House Joint Resolution confirming Ashlee Fox at Fairfield. You remember the Commuter Rail Council?

ASHLEE FOX: Good morning.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Ashlee, are you here? Hi. Good morning. How are you?

ASHLEE FOX: Well, can you hear me okay?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): We can hear you fine. Yeah. Would you please raise your right hand? Do you promise, swear, affirm to tell us the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

ASHLEE FOX: Yes, I do.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Great. Thank you. And feel free to begin with an opening statement.

ASHLEE FOX: Thank you. Co-Chair Duff, Co-Chair Concepcion, Ranking Member Kelly, Ranking Member Kennedy, Distinguished Members and fellow nominees, good morning. I'm very grateful for this opportunity to appear before you today and for the opportunity to serve my community as a member of the Commuter Rail Council. My name is Ashlee Fox, and I'm a longtime resident of Connecticut, born and raised in Clinton, currently residing in Fairfield with my husband of eight years and our two spoiled dogs who, if by the way, they bark in the background apologies in advance.

I'm a proud class of 2006 graduate of Fairfield University, with an undergraduate degree from the Dolan School of Business, and I'm a graduate of the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business with an MBA in Finance and Strategic Management. For the last 15 years, I've made my career in the energy finance industry, having worked for a startup and Fortune 100 organizations alike in a number of commercial roles.

Currently, I'm the President of a small, midstream infrastructure and commodities marketing company based in Westport. In addition to responsibilities, which include optimizing pipeline capacity, and providing utilities with least cost supply solutions, I most enjoy the aspect of the job that involves innovation on a budget and troubleshooting difficult problems. As a young girl, I remember riding the train for the first time from Union Station in New Haven to New York City. Looking up at the Grand ceiling in the concourse and falling in love with New York. Later in life, ultimately, it was a close proximity by rail to New York City, which, ultimately, drew me to select to attend Fairfield U.

Looking back on all of us now, living along the train line most of my life has given me the unique privilege of being both a small town and city girl at the same time. And it's been such a blessing and

a great opportunity. I think that's one of the distinct advantages that life in Connecticut has to offer. As a college student, I traveled from East Norwalk to Stamford for my first internship. After college, I moved to New York and was a reverse commuter.

In 2012, my husband I relocated to Baltimore for a short period of time, so that he could pursue a job there. And I traveled on a weekly basis, relying heavily on Amtrak and Metro-North back to Westport where my office was located. And I travel further up the New Haven line and make the Charlotte/East connection to Clinton stay with my parents quite a bit.

But today, Fairfield is my home station, I traveled regularly to Stamford on Metro-North switching to Amtrak for transfer to Philly for business quite often. One of the main drivers for our choice to relocate back home to Connecticut from Baltimore and select Fairfield was convenient access to the train line for both myself and my husband, who currently commutes on a daily basis to Greenwich by train.

As an independent crew-oriented solo female traveler, the commuter rail network has been a constant source of independence and also security for me. Whenever there's an opportunity to travel by rail versus car on business, I prefer to travel by rail, especially if it is early in the morning or very late at night. As a very -- as a Member of this Committee, I will advocate for a safe, secure, reliable rail transportation across the state, and will support and promote opportunities to innovate, create efficiencies, enhance the commuter experience, and expand ridership across the state.

Thank you again for your time, attention, and consideration of me for this important role. Thank you also to Representative Leeper, who's not president -- present today for nominating me to this position. I'm very grateful for this opportunity.

And I look forward to answering any questions you may have for me this morning. Thank you.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Great, thank you. Great job. Appreciate it. And so appreciate that and your appointment officially came through the Speaker. Is that correct?

ASHLEE FOX: Yes.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Yes. Okay. Thank you. Sounds like you were once maybe a constituent if you left East Norwalk to go to Stamford. I don't know. Did you ever live in you East Norwalk? Or do you just commute out of there?

ASHLEE FOX: I lived in South Murat for a time, I rented apartment in East Norwalk, yes. I've been to -- I've used a number of the train stations like across from Stamford all the way to the Clinton over the years.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Well, what I appreciated about your testimony is you -- not only have Metro-North experience, you have shoreline East experience and Amtrak experience and you've been, you know, down to Baltimore and back and forth. So I -- I'd say you certainly have the -- you've been on all the rail lines or a good -- a good chunk of them anyway. And will certainly, be a good advocate for commuters.

So I guess I would, you know -- few things one is based on kind of where we are with the pandemic and opening up, I think there's a lot of traffic on the road right now. And some of it maybe because of the fact that people aren't really comfortable yet getting back on the -- on the train. But, you know, do you have any thoughts or ideas on what we can do to get people back on the train again, and having them feel safe?

ASHLEE FOX: Yeah, I think, as you mentioned, that's an enormous challenge. I could say just from people

that I've spoken to and have connections with, there's actually a number of employers who aren't allowing their employees to take the train. So that's, I think, contributing to a part of why we're still seeing such low numbers.

But I think the best thing we can do to sort of regain ridership is just to continue to promote the vaccine, obviously, which will make people feel more comfortable about returning to mass transit, as well as promoting commonly spaces, whether it's the train cars themselves, or also the stations where people are sitting.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Right, okay. No, I think that's good. So what were some of your experiences when you're riding on Metro-North or Shore Line East? Or I don't know, if you've ever written on any of the branch lines, you know, just as a commuter yourself, what -- you know what do you see when you're there? Like that's good, that could be better, that anyone who living in Baltimore, what they did, what -- and we did -- might have done better, what we can improve on? You know, any kind of thoughts on that from your based on your experience?

ASHLEE FOX: Sure. Well riding the [inaudible] this is already getting an improvement, the cars are being upgraded. So that was always the biggest downfall there. So I'm happy to see that the [inaudible] will be moving over, hopefully, to Shore Line East in the near future.

But I think the one thing that off the top of my head, I spend the most time in the Stamford train station, and I know that seating has -- is often a problem. And this is a -- you know, it's a sensitive topic. But in the winter time, this was pre-COVID, there's a lot of, you know, displaced people homeless and others that use the train station as a warming center.

I'd love to see there become an actual warming center somewhere near the Stamford train station, which would open up more seating, make people feel comfortable, but also help those less fortunate that do rely on the station for other needs. I think that would be a huge, huge benefit to the area. So far we've just seen added, you know, security. But I think that could be a really great enhancement that would help a lot of people.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Do you think there's enough, the -- there is enough intra-state train service with Metro-North, for example, going from like Norwalk to Greenwich, or Norwalk to Stamford, or Westport the Greenwich or, you know, whatever the towns are?

ASHLEE FOX: So I see -- obviously, Stamford is the main connecting hub, with the post, you know, getting into the new normal post-COVID. I think there's, obviously, been a lot of change and more people working remotely and switching offices, maybe more satellite offices outside of New York City now. So I'd love to see there be a study to see where there's -- you know, if they're -- the rats need to be optimized. I know a lot of people that I know in Milford area, even further up the line, have jobs in Greenwich and find that the train is unrealistic for them to have a reasonable commute because that everything flows directly to Stamford. So I do have just a general question of whether or not there could be -- there's the need for routes, maybe going directly to Greenwich or other business centers.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Okay. And my last question for you is, you know, there's a -- the President has put forward an Infrastructure Bill to cut and -- in front of Congress. You know, none of us know the outcome of that, whatsoever. But if you had a -- you had a magic wand or you were, you know, the decider, I guess, for Connecticut when that came from. As a commuter would -- is there -- who's had

experience on the rails, is there something that you would say from, from your perspective that, that this should be our number one priority?

ASHLEE FOX: I think -- well, I'm a huge proponent of high speed rail. I know that's much bigger ticket items than monies know probably appropriated there. But speeding up the train lines as much as possible within -- you know, is still making sure that it's as safe as possible, I think would do -- a world of difference. A lot of people have, you know, relocated further up the line. And so I think that's the number one priority, as well as just reliability. So there's a -- there's often a long-standing struggle with when it gets cold. The trains are less reliable due to signal issues. And I know there's been a lot done already to address that. But I think those two things would go a very long way.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Okay, Great. Thank you very much. I appreciate the responses.

ASHLEE FOX: Thank you.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Any other questions from Members of the Committee? Let's see. I'm trying to see if I see -- oh, I see two. There's two hands up. Okay. Representative Godfrey, followed by Representative Quinn.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): Good morning, and congratulations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just full disclosure to do with -- my father was a railroad brakeman and his father was a railroad engineer. So yes, I had model trains growing up, but I also got to ride in my father's caboose and my grandfather actually ran steam on a branch line between the Denver area and Litchfield that the Chupog line which no longer exists. But -- so I've got rail -- railroading kind of in my blood, as well as having policy considerations.

And I'm -- I -- my continuing concern, especially over Metro North is the status of the ranch lions, New Canaan, Danbury, and Waterbury. There have been Governors long ago, who actually wanted to shut them down and replace them with buses, which I think would have been a disastrous move. And we managed to fought -- fight off. But there remains issues from both those times. And as we go forward, of course, we've been looking to re-electrify the Danbury line for decades now, whether or not the money coming in from the federal government under President Biden's infrastructure plan covers things like that -- is still, obviously, an open question.

And little things that kind of bugged me -- one, B.C., COVID, I did travel relatively often, four or five, six times a year between Connecticut and Philadelphia, and between Connecticut and Washington, D.C. Love the Acela, makes me familiar with the problems at Stamford Railroad Station, it is difficult. And the problem I think then and was -- and still now, having Metro North be on time, I can't tell you how frustrating it is when I take the train from Danbury to Stamford in order to catch the Acela, and Metro North is late. And I missed the train and I have to take something else.

So on time capabilities, especially from the branches is a concern of mine and hope it's a concern of you. And then little things. There's actually a railroad station in Danbury, a relatively new that's never open. And I'll tell you on a cold winter day or if you need to use a restroom, that's kind of a problem. Have you have you thought about issues like this as you've commuted? And how familiar are you with the branch lines?

ASHLEE FOX: Yeah, so I'm not nearly as familiar with the branch lines. I haven't spent a lot of time on them, but I hope to become more familiar with them. But I am very familiar with the problem that you speak of, around trying to connect from one, say Amtrak to Metro North. That happens to me

all the time, and I'm constantly switching between my Amtrak app, trying to figure out when Amtrak things were going to be at the Stamford station, and then looking at my net -- Metro-North app, figuring out what track I'm supposed to be running to as quickly as possible.

So I -- and you know the reliability of Metro-North like I can say I've missed a number of those connections. But relatively speaking, I think, Metro-North is a lot more reliable than Amtrak. I think I've spent a lot of time sitting in the Stamford station waiting for Amtrak delays of hours and a time, which is a natural -- a natural phenomenon for them. But, no, I think there could be a lot done, with respect to -- even with the apps now trying to allow commuters to know in advance, "Where do I need to go to make sure I can make this connection more likely to occur?"

REP. GODFREY (110TH): And some of the problem I've discovered is, is the changes Metro North did in its scheduling, I used to be able to take a train from Danbury in 10 minutes after 10. And even with -- if there was a delay and changing the -- to another train in South Norwalk still make it to Stamford on time for the -- I think it's 11:58 Acela.

And then they changed the Metro North Danbury route to leave Denver at 10:30. And if I wanted to take an earlier train, it was like two hours earlier. And then I'd be sitting in the Stamford station for a couple of hours, not the most ideal way to run a railroad. I'm -- I do wish Metro North was more appreciative and understanding and would take action on making their schedule conform more to people who do want to switch from Metro North to what -- to Amtrak, is very, very frustrating standing on the platform in South Norwalk, knowing because I have the app and announcements at the station that the Metro North commuter is running late. And standing there watching the Acela fly by knowing, "Well, okay, I've missed that." Or, for that matter, any

other of the Amtrak offerings. So I just wanted to bring that issue to your -- to your attention, because you do -- you do represent computers, and other people use that.

And I'm very happy to hear about your commitment to working to get people back on the train. So if this is the first time I heard that there are businesses saying, "You can't ride the train." That kind of bothers me. And I hope we can work on that issue collectively, in the -- in the near future. That's a very, very frustrating. What do you think about bar cars?

ASHLEE FOX: Oh.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): A controversy.

ASHLEE FOX: That's a loaded question.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): Yes, yes.

ASHLEE FOX: But I think maybe in the time post-COVID, people will appreciate the bar car more. But I do understand that the priority is making sure there's enough access and in the put -- you know, getting people back onto the rails, there'll need to be ample room. People are -- will naturally be afraid to ride shoulder to shoulder again. So I think that car may be better served to have more seating --

REP. GODFREY (110TH): Okay.

ASHLEE FOX: Constraint, but I'm all for the bar car, otherwise.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): I understand and I appreciate it. Well, congratulations again. I -- I'm confident you're going to do a really good job as a commuter, representing commuter interests to the State of Connecticut, and hopefully to Metro North

and Amtrak in the future. And I -- thank you very much for your answers.

ASHLEE FOX: Thank you very much.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you, Representative. I think Representative Quinn had his hand up next, and then followed by Representative Kennedy.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Ms. Fox, congratulations on your nomination. And I think it is great that we have someone who has utilized our rail system going on to the Board because, certainly, you have an -- a first-hand knowledge of how the whole system works. I represent Meriden. We got a nice new train station, as part of the expansion of commuter rail service.

But one of the concerns that I have is it -- C.T. Rail and Amtrak just don't run late enough. So if you want to go down to New York City for, you know, an evening on the town or go to a baseball game, you really can't take the train out of Meriden because it just doesn't run late enough at night. You've got to go down to New Haven. So what are your thoughts on expanding the hours of C.T. Rail? You know, fully understanding it's a more difficult question with all of the setbacks that rail has endured during the COVID outbreak.

ASHLEE FOX: Yeah, I am. I think it's something I need to learn a little bit more about. I know that will be more budget based than anything else. But I do understand that that concern. My parents have the same concern. Shore Line East also has limited evening hours as well. So when they want to go into New York, they have to drive to New Haven. So I would be all for being able to expand access to other branch lines, to be able to connect and have as much connectivity as possible. I think that's the best -- the best outcome for a lot of folks. I'm just not sure -- I don't know enough at this time as far as what that would entail. But I'd love

to -- this is the answer to other questions as well to try to ask as many people as possible and, potentially, do a number of surveys to figure out where that need is most acute at this point in time. And how about expansions of connections to Boston and also to Bradley airport?

REP. QUINN (82ND): Yeah, I think -- I think, like I said before, the most we can do to expand access and not just making New York -- you know, getting to New York and then New Haven line, the -- that they've constantly been the priority, but expanding access to Boston as well. I'm really intrigued and excited about what I've read lately around the, you know, high speed rail is a big -- a big goal. But I know one of the routes was more of an interstate inland route, which give that could take off, you know, through Springfield, and Western over to Boston, would do wonders for the central part of our state, as far as opening up access with Bradley being the center.

I'm also really intrigued. You know we've spoken about earlier about Tweed, you know, a major -- our new airline flying large 737 planes, making Tweed it's new home. So I do have a question around how to make Tweed accessible by rail and, potentially, linking that to Bradley, just like you have in New York, where you could take a train from Newark to JFK and to others, if we could replicate that here in the future.

ASHLEE FOX: And thank you for that. And then finally, just a comment. If my father was on this Committee, you'd have his vote in a heartbeat. He went to both Fairfield prep and Fairfield view and took the train every day --

REP. QUINN (82ND): Who's that?

ASHLEE FOX: Of Wallingford, downtown Fairfield, during the early 60's when he was going. So in

honor of him, you certainly have my support. And again, congratulations on your nomination.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Thank you very much.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you, Representative. Representative Kennedy.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And congratulations, Ashlee, on your appointment. Sounds like done a lot of research and you bring a lot of passion. And as a writer, it's going to be great. I do represent parts of Milford and Orange, who utilize the downtown Milford a great deal. And a lot of people commute in Milford, and it's great for our economy in this way, so we really do appreciate it.

My question is, so as a Member of this Committee, the council works with the Department of Transportation, and presents its annual report and findings to the Governor, the Legislature, DOT, Metro-North, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. And, basically, the long -- the short of my question is, we don't have anyone that sits on the MTA Board. And so, it's probably not something that you could probably answer now. But I just want to put that little bug in your ear that, should we have one? And I think it sounds like it wouldn't be a good idea if we did have one. So not necessarily a question unless you know the answer to it. But if you could keep that in mind. And if we could coordinate those two, which would be a great thing, so.

ASHLEE FOX: Yes, that was something I was recently made aware of, and I was not previously and it was a little surprising. I do think that's something that would be very helpful and, certainly, warranted, but I also understand there's challenges to making that happen. So I would keep that in mind, for sure.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): I appreciate your response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, congratulations, Ashlee.

ASHLEE FOX: Thank you.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you, Representative. Appreciate that. Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY (21ST): Thank you very much, Senator Duff. And, congratulations, Ashlee, on your appointment on it. It sounds like it's well-deserved, based on your experience and knowledge of riding the rails at all different levels. I just have really two questions and then a comment. Number one is what is your perspective on trying to bring Bridgeport closer to New York? Right now the average, you know, rail ride is about an hour and 45 minutes. How would you make that closer? Could you -- would we look at something like just the wreck like you have Stamford Express to 125th in Grand Central? Would you consider something like that from Bridgeport?

ASHLEE FOX: Yeah, I think -- I thought -- actually I thought a lot about that in the past. And it's really for Bridgeport, as well as other locales, just a question of how can we study and figure out if the "old routes" are sufficient for where people are living and where to kind of create the most economic expansion and accessibility? And I do think there's -- you know, my guess I haven't -- I want to do some of the research, there's probably a good case to be made for reoptimizing some of the routes, which would include more express service for stations like Bridgeport as well as others. So I think there's absolutely a case to be made for that as well.

SENATOR KELLY (21ST): Okay, thank you. The other thing is, I'd also like to join the chorus with

Representative Godfrey on the branch lines, a lot of my District deals with the Waterbury line. And I think they're underserved, both from a infrastructure perspective. But I think if we increase capacity, I think you'd increase ridership, and give people more of an opportunity to get beyond their geographic area when they go to look for either employment or recreation. So I would certainly ask that you keep an eye out for that.

My last comment is just something that every time I ride Metro North, it always grinds my gears, so to speak, is that all the advertising is New York City-centric. And I think we have some fabulous things to offer in our great State of Connecticut. And whatever you can do to kind of rework those contracts so that we can start telling people that, "Ride the commuter rail here in our state," the great things that we have just along the rail, I think would go a long way to supporting jobs and economic development right here and in our great state. So, congratulations, on your appointment nomination, and, you know, do some good things. Thank you.

ASHLEE FOX: Thank you very much.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): All right. Thank you. Thank you, Senator Kelly. Any other questions from Members of the Committee? Any other questions from Members of the Committee? Okay, I don't see any hands up. Okay, the one question -- you probably heard already, is there anything in your past that might prove to be embarrassing to this Committee, to the Governor, or the State of Connecticut?

ASHLEE FOX: No, there is not.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Okay. Thank you very much. We appreciate your time.

ASHLEE FOX: Thanks very much. Appreciate it.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you.

ASHLEE FOX: Good morning.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Okay. All right. Next, we have a House Joint Resolution confirming the reappointment of Scott Guilmartin to be a member of the Airport Authority. So we're back to the -- we went from the air to the rails, back to the air -- airport again. Hey, Scott, how are you?

SCOTT GUILMARTIN: Good morning, Senator. How are you?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Would you raise your right hand, please? All right. Do you promise, swear, affirm, tell the truth, the whole truth, from nothing but the truth?

SCOTT GUILMARTIN: I do.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): All right. Make your opening statement, and we'll have some questions.

SCOTT GUILMARTIN: Hi. My name is Scott Guilmartin. I live in Suffield, Connecticut. For many years, I owned a number of businesses and Windsor Locks that were directly connected to the airport. I still live in Suffield. In fact, my property abuts some of the airport property.

I've had the privilege of serving on the Commission since its inception in 2011. And I'm very proud of the progress that's been made at Bradley. And I have the history of seeing how the efforts that were made to develop Bradley, expand Bradley, going back some years. And I can tell you that -- or from my view that the Airport Authority has done a very good job of trying to expand routes, improve parking, add new resources within the terminal. And I hope to continue on this authority with your vote.

And I would like to add something, if I may, Senator Duff, really appreciated those comments about Bradley before and the ease of use. I'm going to encourage our staff to go back and get that YouTube clip of you talking about the ease of using Bradley vis a vis the New York airports because it was excellent. And I couldn't have said it better myself.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you. I appreciate that. And, you know, especially as we try to get around the LaGuardia construction and Kennedy, and all that other kind of stuff, not nothing against our own Representative Kennedy over here, but it's a mess sometimes. And, you know -- and Bradley was just really so convenient.

So I'm going to -- I have to just step away for a couple of seconds here. I'm going to let Representative Quinn take over the Chair, and then I'll be back in a few minutes. But -- and then we got some questions for you, Scott, but --

SCOTT GUILMARTIN: Very good.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): All set start with your opening statement?

SCOTT GUILMARTIN: All set.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Okay, thank you.
Representative Quinn.

REP. QUINN (82ND): And thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does anyone have any questions for Mr. Guilmartin? Representative Kennedy?

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): You know, I'd be remiss if I didn't make a comment. I just want to congratulate you. I think a lot of it was covered. This is a reappointment? Correct, sir?

SCOTT GUILMARTIN: Yes.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): I think -- I think the biggest challenge that you have is coming out of the COVID-19 on Bradley has been decimated, quite frankly, with the travel. So it's going to be important for marketing and getting people back flying, and knowing that they can fly safely. And that'll come from the marketing aspect. And so, I just want to bring that. And thank you again, for your service. And congratulations on your appointment.

SCOTT GUILMARTIN: Yeah. And if I -- I might talk -- maybe just touch on a couple of comments --

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Correct.

SCOTT GUILMARTIN: That were made before I made a couple of notes. To your point, you know, I think one of the most important things is to be engaged with the airline community and other businesses that are airport-related. And that means being out in, you know, the airport community, so to speak, and making sure they understand that, you know, we are looking to expand root systems, that we are looking to support economic development on airport. And I do believe that, that we're doing a reasonably good job in that respect. You know, we can always do a little bit better. But I think that, by and large, we're doing a good job, in that regard. So, yes, your point is well taken. And I will make sure that we continue to focus on that.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Thank you, Representative Kennedy. Any further questions?

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): I'm all set, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much. Thank you, Scott.

REP. QUINN (82ND): You're welcome. And next, I'll call on Senator Formica.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Scott. Thank you for your service, in -- any number of things to have to do with the State of Connecticut, but, certainly, for the Airport Authority we're talking about today.

You heard me mentioned in my comments to Mr. Donelson earlier about some of the conversations I had with Executive Director and the team about moving forward, financially. Or you've been there, you know it -- from what I looked like, as I pass through the airport this weekend, it looked like, you know, it's back, and everybody's starting to travel. There are lots of things happening. The expansion looks, you know, like, it's going to draw business, you know, moving forward. So -- but I just want to make sure that those items regarding fringe and retirement and other issues that are -- they talked about are on the radar that you have going forward in your next turn.

SCOTT GUILMARTIN: Yeah, I mean, it's something that's very, very important to the Board. Obviously, you know, one of the things that we did, you know, as COVID came into our lives, is we cut back on any unnecessary expenditure, you know, with respect to the airport. That's something that's easily done. But it is a challenge, and we need to try to do what we can to manage, you know, retirement benefits, costs, in a way that's fair to our employees. But at the same time, which is advantageous, you know, in terms of proper financial management. So, you know, it's an effort that's ongoing, and, you know, we continue to be engaged with the Legislature in doing so.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): Yes, thank you very much. I agree with you 100% with the, you know, the fuel tax, you know, down by 75% or so in the last year, that's the main portion of your revenue. I know you've deferred some capital. Did that have any impact on what I see going building?

SCOTT GUILMARTIN: Well, you know, you having just been there, obviously, you've seen that the new rental car facility and parking structure that's under construction. I mean, the good news is, I mean, that was a kind of a private effort, and that continued during the COVID epidemic. So that has been ongoing. And I think, as it turns out, that's going to be a very positive thing, because I agree with you. I don't have the exact new numbers. But I can tell you, because I live up here anecdotally, that there's no question that people are traveling again. So I think we're well positioned, when that is completed to handle and to provide service to passengers and Bradley, which is a good thing.

If I may, I just want to touch on a comment that was made earlier, because I don't want to forget to do it. On one of the Committee Members had asked about Jamaica, And just wanted to note that we did engage with -- I want to say it was Air Jamaica, but don't hold me to that -- and recognizing that there is a very, very large Jamaican population in Connecticut, and specifically the Hartford area. That's something that, you know, we're very well aware of and want to better develop as the opportunity presents itself.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): Thank you for your answers. I look forward to learning more about those issues that we talked about --

SCOTT GUILMARTIN: Yes.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): In terms of staffing, but also, as we move forward, the -- you know, the synergy between the small airports, Tweed, and Bradley and with the authorities moving forward, and how we can work to improve all of those because they're big economic drivers for the state. So thank you for your service. And I appreciate your time today.

SCOTT GUILMARTIN: Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you. Representative Vargas.

REP. VARGAS (6TH): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to congratulate Scott on his reappointment and also appreciate the comments, on the efforts to link the Hartford area with Jamaica, I think that would be wonderful. And I'm glad that those conversations have taken place and that awareness is there. Congratulations, once again, Scott. And thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you. Any other -- Representative Quinn, did you have your hand up again?

REP. QUINN (82ND): Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. And Congratulations, Mr. Guilmartin on your reappointment. I don't know if you were listening to the discussion with Miss Fox on her appointment to the rail authority. But one of the questions that I had asked is making a connection from the rail line to Bradley. I know that has been talked about. Any light you can shed on that?

SCOTT GUILMARTIN: Well, it's something that is a top of mind. I -- and we have discussed it on multiple occasions. And it's something that we want to do. One of the things that has been thought about and discussed is to have a dedicated shuttle service that would run on a regular basis and between the Windsor Locks Train Station and the terminal. I think some of that is going to be predicated on timing, as far as, you know, the service. And also that train station, which is going to be subject to new construction. So that's something that we want to do. We want to make it easy to get to Bradley, whether you're coming you know, by rail or bus. So we are very, very well aware of it and want to, you know, pursue that.

REP. QUINN (82ND): And are there future plans for use of that smaller International Terminal? I know it was constructed around the time that Northwest had the flight to Amsterdam. And that was being utilized. And then when Aer Lingus came in, you clear customs in Dublin.

SCOTT GUILMARTIN: Right.

REP. QUINN (82ND): So once you arrive in Hartford, you can just get right off the plane. But any talk about utilizing that building more in the future?

SCOTT GUILMARTIN: Well, I think there's going to be two issues to consider there. One is, you know, whether or not services available and existing to, you know, Europe or South America, whatever the case may be.

The second thing is, we need to have enough demand coming in to have that staffed by U.S. Customs. And that's a little bit tricky right now because there's not enough -- there are not enough flights to warrant them having full-time staffing there. So it's going to be somewhat chicken in the egg. But, you know, it is a facility that exists and, hopefully, we can get more international flights coming in the Bradley, which will also warrant there being a continue, you know, a full time pressing presence there of customs.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Okay. All right. Thank you very much. And, again, congratulations on your renomination. And thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): And thank you, Representative Quinn, for continuing there for a couple of minutes. I appreciate it. Thank you. Any other Members -- questions from Members of the Committee? Any other questions from Members of the Committee? Seeing none.

Okay, Scott, it's -- the question is there anything in your past that would prove embarrassing to the Committee, the Governor, or the State of Connecticut?

SCOTT GUILMARTIN: No, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Okay. Great. Thank you very much. Appreciate your time.

SCOTT GUILMARTIN: Thank you.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Bye.

SCOTT GUILMARTIN: Good seeing you again, Senator.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): You as well. You as well.

SCOTT GUILMARTIN: Bye, bye.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Bye. Thank you. Next, we have House Resolution confirming Lenny T. Winkler of Groton to be a Member of the Freedom of Information Commission. Hi, Lenny, how are you? You're on mute.

LENNY WINKLER: Okay, thank you. Good to see you.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): How are you? First of all, I think you and I served in the House way back when back in the day, right?

LENNY WINKLER: Yes, yes. Quite a while ago.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Yes, it was a while ago. So I just first wanted to say, because we were both in the House together, I think you -- we -- your last year was my first year in the House. And I just want to say that I'm sorry about Bob Ward's passing to not only you but all the Members of the Committee and others who have been -- who were under his leadership. Good guy. And, you know, he had been

there for a long time. And I think you were -- he was leader when you were there.

LENNY WINKLER: Yes.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Just want to send my --

LENNY WINKLER: Thank you. Thank you for your comments.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Very good guy, for sure. Really, somebody who always had the best interests of the state at heart. So, Lenny, would you mind raising your right hand, please? Okay. Thank you. Do you promise swear, affirm, tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

LENNY WINKLER: Yes, I do.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you. And the floor is yours.

LENNY WINKLER: Thank you. Good morning, Senator Duff Senator Kelly, Senator Looney, Representative Concepcion, Representative Kennedy, and Distinguished Members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee. For the record, my name is Lenny Winkler from Groton, and I am deeply honored to have been selected by Governor Lamont for reappointment to the Freedom of Information Commission.

I was first appointed by Governor Malloy to the Commission in 2013 on the recommendation of the Honorable Nancy Wyman and the Honorable Jonathan Harris. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Committee for the opportunity to speak before you today regarding my desire to continue serving as an FOI Commissioner, excuse me. For those Members who do not know me I was married to my wonderful husband David until he passed away in September of 2020.

I have two married daughters and three granddaughters.

I had the honor of serving in the Legislature as a State Representative of the 41st District in Groton for 19 years. I was first elected in a special election in 1988 and served through 2006. I always worked in a bipartisan fashion and what I believed was in the best interest of Connecticut's residents in my own constituents. While in the Legislature, I served as Assistant Minority Leader, Ranking Member of the Bonding Subcommittee and a Member of the Finance Revenue and Bonding Public Health, Judiciary and Transportation Committees.

I was an emergency room nurse employed by Lawrence Memorial Hospital until 2011 when I retired. I also worked in the North Sterlingon Health Center from 2011 until its closure in March of 2012. I was appointed by Governor Rell to the Connecticut Public Health Foundation Board of Directors and Connecticut's HealthFirst Authority. I was also appointed by Governor Rell and approved by this Committee to serve on the Board for state academic awards, also known as Charter Oak State College, and served as the Chairman for the last two years, until it was consolidated with the Board of Regents. I served on the Board of Directors of the Center for Hospice Care of Southeastern Connecticut for nine years and as their President, for the last two years.

I am a strong believer in open government and feel that access to records of public agencies is critical. As you know, it is the mission of the freedom of information, to ensure citizens access to the records and meetings of public agencies in the State of Connecticut. Therefore, it is the FOI Commission that provides a forum for members of the public to seek clarification or expressed concerns when they believe access has been limited or, in some way, denied. It is in effect a system of

checks and balances with legal guidance provided by the FOI.

The FOI Commission has recognized the need for an affirmative action plan to assure equal opportunities for all. I had always supported affirmative action within the Legislature and I'm a strong proponent of it to avoid discrimination of any kind. I would like to see the FOI Commission charge a fee to those individuals who bring an action against an agency or board and do not appear for the hearing. Resources are scarce and the time needed to prepare for a hearing can be costly and daunting. Individuals would have the opportunity to withdraw their case before a hearing is scheduled to avoid fees and prevent added expenses for all.

I am open to any ideas that might improve the service of the FOI Commission. I look forward to serving as an active member of this notable commission and participating regularly in their meetings. I thank the Members of this Commission, again, for the opportunity to speak here and ask for your favorable support of my nomination to this very important commission. Thank you.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you, Lenny, we appreciate your comments. And for those who did not serve had the pleasure of serving with you. I will say that your reputation was always sterling, you always did work in a bipartisan way. And he always had the best interest of the people you represent the state at heart. So I think you'll do a great job on the FOI Commission.

And I always appreciate when former legislators come back and use our expertise to serve on many of these boards and commissions and, you know, take the time, again to serve state governments. So you have my appreciation and thankfulness, I guess, by -- to say, you know, by serving again, so I appreciate it very much. Two things, one of which is because of COVID, has there been or is there a backlog for FOI

for hearings? And if so, is there a plan kind of to kind of get through those in a timely way?

LENNY WINKLER: I am sure there is a backlog. We have conducted our meetings telephonically. And that has worked out very well. But I am sure there are there is a backlog. And it will be addressed once we can move forward.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Okay. Yeah, it's probably not easy. And I don't know what the answer is. But, hopefully, it's almost like the courts. You know, everybody wants their day of -- day of justice, I guess.

LENNY WINKLER: Yes.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): And they want to be able to try and open up the floodgates, so you can get those cases moving again. And then, secondly, you spoke about charging people who don't show for their -- for their cases, is that a big problem?

LENNY WINKLER: I think it is bigger than what a lot of people might think. Frequently, we'll have a meeting scheduled and the members that have brought case before the FOI has, unfortunately, decided not to show up for one reason or another. And the attorneys for the other side will show up. Consequently, the town or an individual has paid for that Attorney's time, and consequently the case is not heard.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Yes.

LENNY WINKLER: And I think that's very unfortunate. And I think it should be addressed.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): I didn't even know that was an issue. So thank you for bringing that to our attention. Almost like who would do that? I guess prevalent more --

LENNY WINKLER: It happens.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Than we -- than we think it is. So thank you very much. Senator Formica, followed by Representative Godfrey.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): Thank you, Mr. Chair. Appreciate that. Good afternoon.

LENNY WINKLER: Good afternoon.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): And good to see you again. I -- certain of your qualifications and your intention. So I just wanted to take the time to express my condolences on your loss and my gratitude that you're going to continue serving and for all that you've done for Southeastern Connecticut and Connecticut over the terms of your career. So thank you for continuing to do what you've always done.

LENNY WINKLER: Thank you so much for your comments.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): Thank you, Mr. Chair.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you, Senator. Representative Godfrey, followed by Representative Vargas.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): Thank you. Excuse me. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The -- Lenny, good to see you. Like a few of my colleagues here, we did get to serve together. And, frankly, folks, everything she said in her opening statement was true, I can witness it, testify to it. She was a delight, as a colleague, and as someone one could work with. She did have the people of the State of Connecticut at heart in all of her representation, and I certainly appreciate that. And I, too, am glad that former legislators continue their roles to protect the public interest, especially in this one.

You're absolutely right. Freedom of Information Act, is, I think, one of the most seminal and

important pieces of legislation originally proposed by Governor Crosshill way way back in the day, to make sure people had access to what our -- their public records, their public records. And I've worked assiduously for years and years and years making sure that happens.

I meet with your -- with the Commission staff annually in the beginning of every year to go over their concerns and their Legislation and stay in touch. In fact, I've got a -- on my list of things to do today is to talk to your Executive Director about some pending legislation. And I -- and I -- to share your concern about making sure that public records remain public, I'm -- we're looking at legislation dealing with -- and now here in the 20 - 21st century the use of things like cell phones to take pictures and dealing with various and sundry records, especially when we're dealing with a conveyance records and property records in a town clerk's office that we need to wrestle with.

While I support the idea of charging, for the work that is done in like in a town clerk's office or in another agency, I don't believe those charges should be profit centers for municipalities or the state. That kind of drives me crazy when there are proposals to overcharge more than the actual cost of revealing a public document. And that -- and I'm -- often throw my hands up in the air, that this recent trend groups coming together with the proposal. We're so important, we should be exempt from the Freedom of Information law when it comes to their personal human resource files.

Well, you know, I tell them, sometimes to no avail. personal files are exempt -- have been from the very beginning. We don't give -- agencies don't give out your addresses and your phone numbers and your social security numbers. And it drives me crazy. And you've been really one of the forces in the last few years on FOIC to make sure that that continues to happen. And I hope -- I hope you continue. I --

perhaps second only to my involvement in the responsibility laws, the Freedom of Information law has been my passion for my 33 years in the House of Representatives. I know it's now your job and has been and continues to be.

Where do you think legislators, especially who have not had the long history that you and I have had in Freedom Information laws, and keep proposing exemptions and exceptions and what, apparently, drives me crazy throughout our statutes, there are exemptions, but they're never -- they never seem to be consolidated in one place in the statutes under the Freedom of Information Act. Well, where do you think the biggest threat to keeping public records public is? And how do you approach questions like that?

LENNY WINKLER: That's a difficult question.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): It is.

LENNY WINKLER: It is. Yeah. I think it's important that legislators are made aware of just how important the Freedom of Information Act is and, perhaps, having a forum on the FOI Act might be beneficial. Tom Henick is wonderful, who is with the Freedom of Information is a wealth of knowledge. And I think he would be -- that might be a possibility to inform the legislators, through someone that has an in depth knowledge as Tom does.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): That's a great idea. I wish I had thought of it. But thank you very much for sharing that. It's often difficult with newer legislators and who are -- who are learning on the learning curve to understand what state agencies are and do. And that's a -- that's not a bad idea whatsoever. I'll be following up with your staff on questions like that.

I also want to say I appreciate the very difficult effort that the Members of the Commission have had

with abusive people who have -- who have used the Freedom Information Law to harass and tie up agency action, including in the Legislature, I've been the subject of that myself, and I need to just applaud the rather careful and the compassionate approach that you and your colleagues on the commission have taken. And it's a fine line -- is fine line between use and abuse. It's a fine line between public and private records. And I really commend you're committed -- your commitment, and your activities, your actions, and your willingness to serve. So good to see you.

LENNY WINKLER: Good to see you too.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): Good to see and -- a colleague and good luck. Congratulations on your reappointment, Lenny. Thank you very much.

LENNY WINKLER: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you though.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you, Representative. Representative Vargas.

REP. VARGAS (6TH): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also want to add my congratulations to Commissioner Winkler on a reappointment to the FBI. And, you know, I just had some thoughts that came through my mind listening to the discussion.

The complaints I get most of the time in terms of people trying to play close to the vest and sharing little information is about the quasi-public agencies. They seem to think that, you know, they're above the law. And also I get complaints once in a while from former colleagues of mine from the Hartford public school system, but the charter schools to how open they are. You have any thoughts on that Commissioner?

LENNY WINKLER: I'm not at this point, but I'll certainly give it some thought.

REP. VARGAS (6TH): Well, thank you very much. And thank you, Mr. Chairman.

LENNY WINKLER: Thank you.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you. Any other questions from Members of the Committee? Oh, I see Senator Looney joining.

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): Hello, Chairman. How are you? Hi. I'm good. Happy belated birthday. How's the birthday over the weekend?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you very much. Hello, Alen. Happy Mother's Day.

LENNY WINKLER: Thank you.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): You're welcome. Any other questions from Members of the Committee? No? Okay. Certainly, we're just finishing up with Lenny Winkler, I don't know if you had a question or not. But this chance you're going to ask a question?

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): No, just want to say hello to my former colleague. How are you, Lenny?

LENNY WINKLER: Good. Thank you. How are you?

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): Very well, thanks.

LENNY WINKLER: Good to see you.

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): Good to see you. Congratulations on your nomination.

LENNY WINKLER: Thank you.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Okay. Let's see. One question that we always ask. Is anything in the past that you believe might prove embarrassing to

this Committee to the Governor or the State of Connecticut?

LENNY WINKLER: No.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Okay. Thank you. Thanks, Lenny. We appreciate your time today.

LENNY WINKLER: Thank you. Great to see you all.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): You too. Thank you. Okay, we're going to move back up to item number one in our agenda. Second item, which is Senate Joint Resolution confirming Leonard Fasano of North Haven to be a legislative Commissioner. So our second Lenny of the day. Welcome, Senator Fasano.

LEONARD FASANO: Thank you Senator Duff. Senator Duff, Senator Kelly, Representative Quinn, Representative Quinn --

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Oh I got to -- I got to have you --

LEONARD FASANO: Sworn in?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Hold on one second. Yeah. Do you promise, swear, affirm, tell the truth, the whole truth, from nothing but the truth?

LEONARD FASANO: I do.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): All right. Go ahead.

LEONARD FASANO: All right. Good morning, Senator Duff, Senator Kelly, Representative Quinn, Representative Kennedy, Representative Concepcion, my good friend, Senator Looney, and Senator Formica, I have to give a shout out to, and the other Members of the Committee, who I've had the honor and privilege probably serving with all live for at least most of you throughout the years. My name is Len Fasano.

I served in the State Senate for 18 years, representing the 34th District. And it's been an honor and a privilege to serve in that building. This institution is the terrific institution, and most of you on this Committee know and have served for a long time and know how that building works and how important it is. But the tradition within that building.

I am practicing law now. I got a minute, I missed the building a lot. So having the opportunity to get back into the building is a little bit thrilling to me. I spend such a large part of my life. So I look forward to it. I think I could bring to the table my experience as legislator, as well as a lawyer that, perhaps, for the last 18 years, I don't practice so much, but my experiences as a lawyer. So I hope that this Committee and I ask this Committee for their support today. And I look forward to the nomination process. Thank you very much, Senator Duff, and a belated Happy birthday to you.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): At least it wasn't a session day. It usually is.

LEONARD FASANO: It is.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Anyway, thank you, I appreciate that. So I wanted to ask quickly, because I'm sure there's other Members who have questions as well. Not that we would take this opportunity to grill a former legislator as well, but we do that for fun. But, anyway, it's really great to see you, Len. And as I said to Lenny, before, it's really appreciate when former legislators come back to serve, and to take on this role as a Legislative Commissioner, and to work with -- and mainly on the Bills and making sure that the I's are dotted and T's are crossed, because that's really what needs to happen in the Legislative Commissioner's Office.

So we appreciate your willingness to come back into the building and serve we know how much you loved it, and how much you enjoy your role and the passion you have for policy of the State of Connecticut and public service. So for the -- for the members of the -- of the audience here on YouTube, or CTN, or whatever, can you just talk a little bit about what your role is and what you would do, I guess? And then I -- I'll pass it along to some other Members of the Committee.

LEN FASANO: So the role is to make sure that the Bills that all -- you all in your various Committees want to have is a purpose actually, is what the Bill looks like, make sure it's constitutional, and make sure it's not repetitive of other laws that we have on our books, and review them for all that. And make sure as you put it, I think so appropriately, the I's are dotted and T's are crossed, and making sure the process meets with your approval. It is as quickly as can be.

You know, one of the big things, I was talking to Ed Mailey the other day, and this morning, one of the big things is digitizing our efforts, you know, looking at that to make things get caught up with our new technology. So there's some challenges ahead that the Commission looks forward to, and I think it's going to make it a better commission. But, overall, it's to make sure that these Bills are as you propose them to be.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Great, thank you. And -- so I think the last thing I would just say, Len, is that, you know, I think you're -- as a leader, you're -- and as a -- as a legislator, and before you were a leader, your reputation was always a fairness and that you would work with people on issues. You try to resolve issues. As sometimes as a leader, it's difficult because we all have to take partisan positions at times. But I know that you have always strived to be fair and to work with folks, get

things passed and to have the best interests of the State of Connecticut. So I certainly believe you'll do a great job as a Legislative Commissioner, and you have my support and --

LEONARD FASANO: Thanks for the -- for the kind words.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Representative Kennedy.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and welcome, Senator Fasano, it's great to see you, and congratulations on your appointment and as -- echo the comments of Senator Duff, thank you for your willingness to continue serving in the public form. We just ask -- so I know it's a new position, but what some of your goals be working towards in this? Just briefly if you could share some of those goals with us.

LEONARD FASANO: Sure. You know, I actually I said Maley that very same question, because I am new to -- with it. What is -- what is LCO looking forward to do? And he said, basically, you know, in December, they decided they were going to digitize this whole thing. And they kind of put together an I.T., did a great job from what I understand this session and putting it together as quickly as possible.

I think this summer, it's going to be analyzing what went right, what went wrong, how we can improve it. So I think that whole systems can be worked -- reworked. And I think that's what the focus is going to be, looking at how to make it better, and improving it and things of that nature. So I think that's what -- that's going to be a laser focus.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Thank you, sir. Appreciate that. And Mr. Chairman, I see other hands, so I'll yield to my colleagues for their questions. Thank you, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Great, Senator Looney, followed by Senator Kushner, and Representative Godfrey.

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good morning, Len, and congratulations.

LEONARD FASANO: Thank you. Good morning, Senator. It's good to see you.

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): I am so pleased that this nomination -- I think that -- I can't think of anyone that I can think of who would fit better in that role and have the confidence of the General Assembly in doing it. Because as you all know, as everyone knows the workings of LCO are very delicate and balanced and depend upon trust that all four caucuses have to be convinced that the LCO is scrupulously neutral and non-partisan, because we often know the LCO attorneys are sometimes working on amendments to the very same Bill that may go in completely opposite directions, from members of caucuses in different parties. And it all has to be done in a way that's confidential, doesn't betray any confidences, doesn't let out information that we give one side or another an advantage. All of those things come into play. And the whole enterprise only works when there's a high degree of trust. And I think that's something that you are in a -- in an excellent position to continue to guarantee because of the respect that you've always earned in every aspect of your career in the General Assembly.

So just one question in terms of that, it's a somewhat unusual structure that you have all LCO attorneys, many of them have served for many years. You have the LCO director, who is the person who actually supervises and distributes the work and decides which attorneys work with which Committees and which ones may rotate to a different Committee. But then you have the two commissioners, you, and at this point, Ed Maley, who will be, in effect,

designated as partisan commissioners, whose responsibility is to make sure that the office runs in a non-partisan way. So they're just -- your thoughts a little bit on that somewhat hybrid process and your role as Commissioner, as opposed to the role of the LCO Director?

LEONARD FASANO: So my understanding as the LCO Director really works for us. And that, once again, I was having some conversations with Ed about it. And Ed and I know each other because he, I believe, was in the Senate Democrat office, when I was there as Chief of Staff early on --

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): Yeah.

LEONARD FASANO: In my early career, so -- and then I have a -- I have a relationship when we were talking about that today. So we kind of oversee that. We are the ones who oversee, to make sure things are running smoothly. And since we've worked together before, I think this will be very easy for us to work together again. So I think our role is to make sure things are done fairly, make sure our Legislative needs are met by that office and ensure fundamental fairness in the process. And I think that, in talking to Ed, we were talking about how that kind of works. And we talked about the structure of it.

So -- but the big thing I think that Ed pointed out was this digitizing. That's going to be just such a main focus, to make things easier for legislators, make things easier for the review process, and bring it all up to speed. So it's a combination of oversight, and it's a combination of moving us into the new century of digital information.

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): Great. I think that because of your respect for the institution and the length of your service here, I think that you go into this, with a great deal of gravitas, in the sense that people know you're interested in making sure that

the institution works in a way that's never compromised or undermined. So that's why I'm so pleased that you'll be coming into this position, Len, and wish you the very best.

LEONARD FASANO: Thank you very much, Senator.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you. Thank you, Senator. Senator Kushner, followed by Representative Godfrey, followed by Senator Formica.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH): Good morning, Senator Fasano, it's great to see you.

LEONARD FASANO: Good morning, Senator Kushner, how are you?

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH): I'm doing well. And I really -- I don't have any questions. But Senator Looney and Senator Duff have said it so well. Well, my experience working with you is very short-lived. We -- I was only in the -- in -- just the one term that we served together. And that was a very unusual term, because one of those years we hardly saw each other because of COVID. But my impression of you, from 2019 is -- has been said by others that you were very good to work with, and that you're very trustworthy. And you're also very kind. And so, I appreciate all of that. And I -- you know, I can tell from the way you spoke on the floor of the Senate, you're well-spoken, you're articulate, you're very sharp and you know, this works so well. So, congratulations, on the nomination, and it will be good to see you there.

LEONARD FASANO: Thank you, Senator Kushner, for your kind words. I'd definitely appreciate. Thank you so much.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you, Senator. Representative Godfrey, followed by Senator Formica.

REP. GODFREY (110TH): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate. Len, I'm happy to see that there's life after the Legislature, and I -- congratulations on your -- on your nomination. I'm glad to -- yeah. I kind of deal with the internal workings of the General Assembly as you know sometimes more than our colleagues, I'm really happy you are focusing on the digitization and the upgrades to our computer system that we so desperately need.

We had a lot of trouble between the election and opening day because it was very, very difficult, if not impossible, for our LCO attorneys to actually work from home, because of the rather obsolete software that we're using, we're finding this is a problem throughout state government because we just haven't invested in upgrades. And I'm happy to what -- to that you're concentrating there because I know the frustration among some of the attorneys being pushed sometimes well into these small hours of the morning to prepare amendments to Bills and never get called.

I hear that complaint a lot. Not much we can do about it, I'm afraid, and wrestling with the issues that we wrestle with on transparency within the General Assembly. And, you know, we've been without a permanent executive. We were out -- we were without a permanent Executive Director for some time. That's a -- wrestling with some of that in the middle of a session that is unique -- that is more -- with meetings like this one on Zoom rather than in person, and even on the days we're in session, carefully making sure the House and Senate and all their staff isn't on the same day. I didn't know it was going to happen in a couple of weeks when the rubber really hits the road. But the LCO has long been a stalwart in transparency, getting the job done, working extremely long hours. And we really respect them and the two commissioners and, obviously, including yourself. So I want -- congratulate you on that.

I get concerned even -- if you had been listening early I had with our conversation with the -- Lenny Winkler, I need to bring up a small issue -- the use of notwithstanding language. The problem is not the language itself, but the fact that, that -- it usually doesn't get codified with the statutes it's not withstanding. And I think that the legislative Commissioner's Office who's -- one whose principal jobs is to keep the statutes in -- updated were one of the few states that actually adopts the printed statutes where we've -- the biennial Bill, I think, is pending before the House right now. So that someone who is just reading the statutes has the full access to the information to know what is and is not the law.

So I'm -- so the problem comes when someone who's not a lawyer, who's been dealing with the statutory construction, which kind of got weird in -- of Legislation could read, like the FOI statute and miss all the exemptions because they're scattered about. So I think as the work goes on, especially this summer, in getting a codification for the next round, I would appreciate if some attention -- or was kept to that. It used to be -- I've been around a while. It used to be that when an exemption was made, the exemption was made in the statute like the FOIA instead of using the notwithstanding language, it becomes it becomes problematic.

And then I'm hoping you'll continue the tradition now going on for some time, of keeping statutory language in plain language. It drives me crazy when we slide into legalese that, you know, my average constituent in reading a statute can't understand and that things are spelled out, things like lists and bullet points that have been relatively recent upgrades to the language continued on -- I hope you'll be able to comment on some of my -- on some of my comments.

LEONARD FASANO: So thank you, Representative Godfrey. I think those are excellent comments. And

I think it is difficult to navigate the statutes. As a practicing lawyer, I see that difficulty. But also for the common person who wants to just look up a statute, read it not know that the exemptions occur in another area that you serve, whatever was done in that area. It's an interesting issue. And I think that we need to make statutes, more user-friendly, less legalese, where we can, and try to put all in one section, so you don't have to scour it. And, you know, I think over time, I don't want to, -- over time, I think, changes that we made, we don't think of it that way. But LCO should direct itself in that regard. So I think those are really excellent points and something I will keep in mind should I get the position?

REP. GODFREY (110TH): Thank you. Thank you very much. I really appreciate your commitment. And congratulations again.

LEONARD FASANO: Thank you.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you, Representative, Senator Formica, followed by Senator Kelly.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good morning, Senator. Always a pleasure to see you. Thank you. You know, it was real honor to serve with you in the time that we work together in the -- in the Senate. And, you know, I can't think of anybody better suited for this position than you, with your knowledge of how the legislative process works, your background in law. And I think, most importantly, your strong feelings of the institution and the integrity surrounding the institution needs to be kept. So I congratulate you. And I want to thank you for everything. And I don't really have any questions. I don't know much about what your -- the job is going to be. I think that the overview I understand the digitizing I think is important. So I look forward to working with you, sir.

LEONARD FASANO: Well, thank you. Thank you for your kind words. It's good to see you again.

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): My pleasure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you, Paul. Thank you, Senator. Senator Kelly, followed by Representative Yaccarino.

SENATOR KELLY (21ST): Thank you very much, Senator Duff. And thank you for being with us here this morning. It's good to see you, Len. I'm very pleased at your nomination and also your willingness to continue your public service on behalf of our great State of Connecticut and the people that live here.

You have always been known to be an individual who was fair, objective and policy-driven and because of those attributes, I believe you are uniquely qualified for this position, because that's what it demands -- is that somebody is going to look at things, not only in who can say our laws in the statutes, not only objectively, but to be fair and policy-driven. I think that's what sets -- separates Connecticut and our staff and our regulation review process apart from other states.

The other thing that I must state is that I think in the years that I've been in the -- in the Senate and had the opportunity to work with you, nobody cared more about not only the integrity, but also the institution itself. I can't tell you how many times I would hear you say that, you know, it's about the institution, we have to have a special regard, for instance and ensure that regardless of the politics of the day, of the institution must live on. So I'm very happy that you're willing to continue to serve our great state and to assume this position. And I think we're all going to be better for it. And thank you.

LEONARD FASANO: Senator Kelly, thank you, again, for nominating me and putting my name in to the process. I really appreciate it because it gives me an opportunity to come back to a place that I really love. So thank you so much. And thank you for your words.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you. Thank you, Senator Kelly. Representative Yaccarino.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hello, Len. And I just want to say a few words. Obviously, we work together in our District for 10 years. You're going to be -- your always are our great asset to our state and will be a greater asset doing -- with your new role. I miss working with you, I learned a lot from you. You brought a lot of integrity to the office, and you'll do the same with your new role. So I just want to, obviously, echo the words of everybody else, and it's a great opportunity for our state.

LEONARD FASANO: So Representative Yaccarino, thank you very much. First of all, let me say this, you're slipping here. What's with the zip up?

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): I was -- I was at the doctors. I had -- I was --

LEONARD FASANO: If I was still there. that would not happen. I'm just saying.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): No, I had to go to the doctor's for my I -- for my neck. And I had to wear this something comfortable. I just left the doctor's appointment.

LEONARD FASANO: All right. I'll let you --

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): And --

LEONARD FASANO: Slide this one time because I need your help here. And thank you very much.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): I got hurt just in time. I just left. So I just wanted to say a few words. And, obviously, look forward to working you -- with you, whatever, you know, in the future, what we're going to do. But wish you the best.

LEONARD FASANO: Thank you, David.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): I'll tell you, Len. it's a little more casual for sure on -- in Zoom world. All right, for sure.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): I kept -- not that I was -- went to the doctor, had a delay. I went in -- I joined the meeting, went back into the doctor's office, so that is a little convenient but it's -- I had to wear this because I had to be comfortable.

LEONARD FASANO: That's okay.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): That'll be comfortable. Anyway, I'll see you. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Len.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Sometimes tend to be the exception, not the rule now. But Representative Quinn, followed by Representative Vargas.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And Senator, congratulations on your nomination. I mean, obviously, I didn't have the opportunity to work with you, just coming in myself. But everything that I've heard about you over the years is that you are a class act. And I think that you will bring a lot to this position. And I'd be remiss if I didn't ask you to pass along my greetings to your partner, Rick Florentine. I served on his Grievance Committee for several years.

LEONARD FASANO: Well, I definitely will
Representative Quinn. I'll let him know. I'll text
him when we're done. Thank you.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): You're welcome. And thank
you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you. Representative
Vargas.

REP. VARGAS (6TH): Thank you very much, Mr.
Chairman. I just wanted to add my congratulations
to Senator Fasano his appointment as Legislative
Commissioner. And I also want to say that, you
know, as a Democrat, we always were happy in the
Democratic caucus, when we found out that
conversations were taking place, and you were part
of those conversations, because we always thought
you -- of you as a fair broker. And,
congratulations, on -- you'll do a great job. Thank
you, Mr. Chairman.

LEONARD FASANO: (25TH): Thank you, Representative
Vargas. And I remember serving on this Committee as
you was Chair. So thank you very much, and it was
always a pleasure. You had a great Committee, so
thank you so much.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you, Representative.
and I think Senator Cassano has said that if an
Amendments not done in 20 minutes, we can call him.

LEONARD FASANO: That's right.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Yeah.

LEONARD FASANO: And if I -- if I may, Mr. Chairman,
I just wanted to say a Bill Hamzy is leaving this
position. I just want to take this opportunity and
thank him for his years of service at this position
in the Legislature of former rep, so I just want to
take this opportunity and thank him. And he's -- I
guess, has moved on to become -- or will be sworn in

as probate Judge. And that's reason why he had to leave. But I want to take this opportunity to thank him for his years of service.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Absolutely. Absolutely. Senator Looney, do you have something else?

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): No, just -- I think to express, once again, that my deep admiration for Senator Fasano for all of his service, the 18 years we served together in the Senate, the excellent bipartisan Legislation, especially on insurance and health care that we were able to put together that, in many cases, is cited in other states as a national model. So I think as a -- as a legislator, he leaves a great legacy. And now then the next phase of his career in this position, where what's required is a reputation for fairness and respect for the institution. And no one brings that to bear in the position more than Len Fasano. So I think we're very fortunate to have him coming back in this capacity.

LEONARD FASANO: Thank you very much.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): I think -- I think it'd be said any better than that. And I agree with you also, Len, about thanking Bill Hamzy, who I served with to in the House and always was a fair broker, a good guy, reasonable, and somebody who could take his word to the bank, and did a great job as an LCO Commissioner, as well. So, certainly, want to thank him for his service also.

All right, so I guess we got to ask the question. Is there anything in your past that you believe might prove to be embarrassing to this Committee, the Governor, or the State of Connecticut?

LEONARD FASANO: No.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Len. We appreciate it. Good luck, and I believe that you'll see strong support in the Committee.

LEONARD FASANO: Thank you so much. And thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the entire Committee. Thank you again. Appreciate it.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you. Thank you. All right. I think that is -- that is our last nominee. And we can adjourn the Public Hearing. And we'll take 10 seconds to pause, and then we will -- why don't we that now convene the executive -- convene the meeting -- the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee.

Let's hold on a second, if you don't -- everybody just bear with me one second. Let's see. All right. Now, we'll just go back to -- sorry about that. All right, so we'll start off with -- so convene the Executive Legislative and Nominations Committee for Monday, May 10th, 2021. Madam Clerk, we -- are we all set with everything?

WENDY FRITZ: We're all set.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): So for the first item to be acted upon, which is I'm looking at the Public Hearing agenda, but I assume this is -- that the Committee agenda, is that correct, Madam Chair -- Madam Clerk?

WENDY FRITZ: It's the same. Yes.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Okay. So under Senate Joint Resolutions Number 1, which is Senate Joint Resolutions confirming reappointment of Theodore M. Doolittle of West Hartford as Healthcare Advocate, is there a motion to approve?

REP. VARGAS (6TH): I'll move.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): I'll move, Mr. Chair.

REP. VARGAS (6TH): Second.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): By Representative Kennedy, second by Representative Vargas. Any comment? If not, Madam Clerk, please call the roll.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Duff?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Senator Duff votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Concepcion? Senator Looney?

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): Senator Looney votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Kelly?

SENATOR KELLY (21ST): Senator Kelly votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Kennedy?

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Kennedy votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative D'Agostino?
Senator Fonfara? Senator Formica?

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): Formica votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Godfrey?

REP. GODFREY (110TH): And Representative Godfrey votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Hartley? Senator Kushner?

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH): Senator Kushner votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you. Senator Moore?

SENATOR MOORE (22ND): Senator Moore votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Perillo? Senator Somers? Representative Yaccarino?

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Yaccarino votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Vargas?

REP. VARGAS (6TH): Representative Vargas votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: That's the roll, Mr. Chair.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Okay. Thank you.

REP. QUINN (82ND): Mr. Chairman, if I could interrupt, you skipped me. I'm not taking it personally though.

WENDY FRITZ: Okay. I'm so sorry. Representative Quinn?

REP. QUINN (82ND): Representative Quinn vote yes.

WENDY FRITZ: I apologize.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): All right. Next is Senate Joint Resolution confirming Leonard Fasano of North Haven to be a Legislative Commissioner. Is there a motion?

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): So moved.

MALE: So moved.

FEMALE: Second.

MALE: Second.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Second.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Second by Representative Yaccarino and everybody else, I think. Is there any -- the conversation? If not, Madam Clerk, please call the roll.

WENDY FRITZ: Could you tell me who made the motion please?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Senator Looney.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Followed by Representative Yaccarino, and the entire Committee.

WENDY FRITZ: Got it. Senator Duff?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Senator Duff votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Concepcion? Senator Looney?

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): Senator Looney votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Quinn?

REP. QUINN (82ND): Representative Quinn votes yes.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): All right.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator, Senator Kelly?

SENATOR KELLY (21ST): Senator Kelly votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Kennedy?

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Kennedy votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: One more time, ma'am?

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Kennedy votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Thank you. You're welcome.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative D'Agostino? Senator Fonfara? Senator Formica?

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): Formica votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Godfrey?

REP. GODFREY (110TH): Godfrey, Godfrey votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Hartley? Senator Kushner?

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH): Senator Kushner votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Moore?

SENATOR MOORE (22ND): Senator Moore votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: One more --

SENATOR MOORE (22ND): Senator Moore votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Yes, thank you so much.
Representative Perillo? Senator Somers?
Representative Yaccarino?

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Representative Yaccarino votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you. Representative Vargas?

REP. VARGAS (6TH): Representative Vargas votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you. That's the roll, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Okay, thank you. Next is House Joint Resolutions -- House Joint Resolution confirming Mishone Donelson of Farmington to be a Member of the Connecticut Airport Authority Board of Directors. Is there a motion?

REP. QUINN (82ND): So moved.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): So moved by Representative Quinn.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Second, Mr. Chair.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Second by Representative Kennedy. Is there any other conversation? If not -
-

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Kennedy, second.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Yeah, I gotcha. Yeah, yep. Motion by Representative Quinn, second by Representative Kennedy. Is there any other conversation? If not, Madam Clerk, please call the roll.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Duff?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Senator Duff votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Concepcion? Senator Looney?

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): Senator Looney votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Quinn?

REP. QUINN (82ND): Representative Quinn votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Kelly?

SENATOR KELLY (21ST): Senator Kelly votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: One more time, sir?

SENATOR KELLY (21ST): Senator Kelly votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you. Representative Kennedy?

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Kennedy votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative D'Agostino?

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EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

May 10, 2021
9:00 A.M.

Represent -- Senator Fonfara? Senator Formica?

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): Formica votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Godfrey?

REP. GODFREY (110TH): And Representative Godfrey votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Hartley?

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH): Senator Hartley, yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Kushner?

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH): Senator Kushner votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Moore?

SENATOR MOORE (22ND): Senator Moore votes yes.
Senator Moore votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you. Representative Perillo?
Senator Somers? Representative Yaccarino?

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Representative Yaccarino votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you.

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Sorry. I'm --

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Vargas?

REP. VARGAS (6TH): Representative Vargas votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: That's the roll, Sir -- Mr. Chair.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you. Next is House Joint Resolution confirming Ashlee Fox of Fairfield to be a Member of the Commuter Rail Council. Is there another motion?

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): So moved, Mr. Chair.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): By Representative Kennedy. Is there a second?

REP. QUINN (82ND): Second.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Second by Representative Quinn. Any discussion? If not, Madam Clerk, please call the roll.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Duff?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Senator Duff votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Concepcion? Senator Looney?

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): Senator Looney votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Quinn?

REP. QUINN (82ND): Representative Quinn votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Kelly?

SENATOR KELLY (21ST): Senator Kelly votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Kennedy?

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Kennedy votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative D'Agostino?
Senator Fonfara? Senator Formica?

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): Formica votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Godfrey?

REP. GODFREY (110TH): And Representative Godfrey votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Hartley? Senator Hartley?
Senator Kushner?

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH): Senator Kushner votes yes.
Sorry for the pause. I got up by -- unmute.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Moore?

SENATOR MOORE (22ND): Senator Moore votes yes.
Senator Moore votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Perillo? Senator
Somers? Representative Yaccarino?

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Representative Yaccarino
votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Vargas?

REP. VARGAS (6TH): Representative Vargas votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: That's the roll, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): All right. Thank you, Madam
Clerk. Next is a House Joint Resolution confirming
the reappointment of Scott Guilmartin of Suffield be
a Member of the Connecticut Airport Authority. Is
there a motion?

REP. VARGAS (6TH): So moved.

MALE: So moved.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): By Representative Vargas. Is
there a second?

MALE: Second.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Second, Mr. Chair.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Second by Representative
Kennedy. Any discussion? If not, Madam Clerk,
please call the roll.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Duff?

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Senator Duff votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Concepcion? Senator Looney?

SENATOR LOONEY (11TH): Senator Looney votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Quinn?

REP. QUINN (82ND): Representative Quinn votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Kelly?

SENATOR KELLY (21ST): Senator Kelly votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Kennedy?

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Kennedy votes yes.
Kennedy votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Okay.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative D'Agostino?
Senator Fonfara? Senator Formica?

SENATOR FORMICA (20TH): Formica votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Godfrey?

REP. GODFREY (110TH): And Representative Godfrey
votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Hartley?

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH): And Senator Hartley votes
yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Kushner?

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH): Senator Kushner votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: One more time, Senator Kushner?

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH): Senator Kushner votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Moore?

SENATOR MOORE (22ND): Senator Moore votes yes.
Senator Moore votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you. Representative Perillo?
Senator Somers? Representative Yaccarino?

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Representative Yaccarino
votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you. Representative Vargas?

REP. VARGAS (6TH): Representative Vargas votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you. That's the roll.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you. Next is a House
Resolution only, confirming Lenny T. Winkler of
Groton to be a Member of the Freedom of Information
Commission that can only be -- motion can be made
and seconded by House Members and only voted on by
House Members. So any Senators, thank you for your
service today and for hanging in there. I think
this will be our last meeting, but you never know.
So, again, appreciate everybody's indulgence. Is
there a motion on the House Resolution?

REP. GODFREY (110TH): So move.

REP. VARGAS (6TH): Second.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): By Representative Godfrey,
second by Representative Vargas. Madam Clerk,
please call the roll of House Members.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Concepcion?
Representative Quinn?

REP. QUINN (82ND): Representative Quinn votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Kelly. Sorry about
that. Representative Kennedy?

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Thanks, lady. Representative
Kennedy votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative D'Agostino?
Representative Godfrey?

REP. GODFREY (110TH): Representative Godfrey votes
yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Representative Perillo?
Representative Yaccarino?

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Representative Yaccarino
votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: And Representative Vargas?

REP. VARGAS (6TH): Representative Vargas votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you. Sorry about that. I used
just my order and go down the line.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): All right. Thank you, Madam
Clerk. And I -- why don't we hold the votes open
'till three o'clock today to give everybody a chance
to vote. And, hopefully, we'll get them in there
before that. Again, I want to thank everybody for
hanging in there. Thank our Clerk, our LCO,
Legislative research, folks at CTN. Anybody else
that I might have missed? I apologize -- support
staff in there as well. We appreciate everybody's

hard work and continuing to make sure that we get these appointments done. So any other questions or comments for the good of the order?

REP. YACCARINO (87TH): Thank you.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): If not, we will release --

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Sorry.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Okay.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): I just want to wish you happy birthday.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Oh, thank you.

FEMALE: Happy birthday.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Before we adjourn, happy birthday, and Wendy, hope -- and everybody, I hope you had a wonderful Mother's Day.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you. Everybody for the -- .

MALE: Happy birthday.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): But thank you. I appreciate it. And Happy Mother's Day, everybody.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): That's okay. It's a -- it's a week worth of birthday. Enjoy.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): Thank you, all.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Goodbye, everybody.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH): We'll stay recess 'till three o'clock.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Great. Okay, perfect.

WENDY FRITZ: Great.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH): Thank you.

WENDY FRITZ: Senator Hartley, do you want to stay on for the vote? Is she still then?

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH): I'm sorry. Yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Okay.

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH): How many did I miss?

WENDY FRITZ: We had six total, so I think you maybe missed four.

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH): Okay.

WENDY FRITZ: Ted Doolittle as Healthcare Advocate.

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH): In the affirmative.

WENDY FRITZ: Len Fasano, LCO Commissioner?

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH): In the affirmative. Is that a surprise?

WENDY FRITZ: And let's see. Then you got Donelson, Ashlee Fox, a Member of the Commuter Rail Council.

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH): In the affirmative.

WENDY FRITZ: Okay. You got Guilmartin. And then the last was a House resolution. So you're all set.

SENATOR HARTLEY (15TH): Thank you. Thank you very much.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you. Take care.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH): Wendy? This is Julie.

WENDY FRITZ: Yes.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH): I think I got them all.
But can you just check and make sure?

WENDY FRITZ: Sure. Got them all.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH): Thank you, Wendy. Have a
good weekend.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you.

SENATOR KUSHNER (24TH): Have a good -- take care.
Thanks for everything.

WENDY FRITZ: Sure, thank you.

NICK BOMBACE: Thank you, Wendy.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you. I thought you had a
question or I did something wrong or something.

NICK BOMBACE: No, no, everything's great.

WENDY FRITZ: Great. Just hanging on, that means I
messed up.

MISHONE DONELSON: No. Not at all. Everything
looks good. I'll talk to you later.

WENDY FRITZ: Yeah, see you.

WENDY FRITZ: Hey, Representative.

REP. PERILLO (113TH): Hey, Wendy.

WENDY FRITZ: How are you?

REP. PERILLO (113TH): I'm good.

WENDY FRITZ: Nominees for today.

REP. PERILLO (113TH): Yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Okay, I'm just going to get my tally sheet here. This one is Ted Doolittle for Healthcare Advocate.

REP. PERILLO (113TH): Perillo votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Len Fasano, Legislative Commissioner?

REP. PERILLO (113TH): Perillo votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Mishone Donelson, Connecticut Airport Authority.

REP. PERILLO (113TH): Perillo votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Ashlee Fox, Member of the Connecticut Commuter Rail Council.

REP. PERILLO (113TH): Perillo votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Scott Guilmartin, Connecticut Airport Authority.

REP. PERILLO (113TH): Perillo votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: And lastly, Lenny Winkler, FOI Commission.

REP. PERILLO (113TH): Perillo votes yes on Winkler.

WENDY FRITZ: Oh, great. Thank you so much.

REP. PERILLO (113TH): Thanks, Wendy.

WENDY FRITZ: Take care.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Madam Clerk, how are you?

WENDY FRITZ: I'm well, thank you. How are you?

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): How's it going.

WENDY FRITZ: Okay, how about you.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Good, thanks.

WENDY FRITZ: Complete your vote, we have Ted Doolittle for Healthcare Advocate.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Representative Concepcion votes in the affirmative.

WENDY FRITZ: Len Fasano for Legislative Commissioner.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Representative Concepcion votes in the affirmative.

WENDY FRITZ: Mishone Donelson Connecticut Airport Authority.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Representative Concepcion votes in the affirmative.

WENDY FRITZ: Ashlee Fox to be a member of the Connecticut Commuter rail Council.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Representative Concepcion votes in the affirmative.

WENDY FRITZ: Scott Guilmartin to be reappointed to the Connecticut Airport Authority.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Representative Concepcion votes in the affirmative.

WENDY FRITZ: And, lastly, Lenny Winkler to be a member of the Freedom of Information Commission.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Representative Concepcion votes in the affirmative.

WENDY FRITZ: Great. I think this is our last meeting unless something pops up.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Okay. Well that's --

WENDY FRITZ: So --

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): That's good. Yeah, just keep me posted on that, Wendy.

WENDY FRITZ: We will.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Thanks so much.

WENDY FRITZ: Yeah, I'm hoping -- I mean we've already gone very late --

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Yeah.

WENDY FRITZ: In assessing. So, hopefully, keep your fingers crossed that this is it.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Okay. Well, thanks, Wendy.

WENDY FRITZ: Okay.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Appreciate it.

WENDY FRITZ: No problem.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): We'll --

WENDY FRITZ: Take care.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH): Yeah, we'll talk soon.

WENDY FRITZ: Okay. Representative?

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH): Hello.

WENDY FRITZ: I'll set the nominees for you to vote on. Ted Doolittle for Healthcare Advocate.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH): I vote yes. Heather Somers votes yes.

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EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

May 10, 2021
9:00 A.M.

WENDY FRITZ: Len Fasano for Legislative
Commissioner.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH): Heather Somers votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Mishone Donelson to be a Member of the
Connecticut Airport Authority.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH): Heather Somers votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Ashlee Fox to be a Member of the
Connecticut Commuter Rail Council.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH): Heather Somers votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: Scott Guilmartin to be a member of the
Connecticut Airport Authority.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH): Heather Somers votes yes.

WENDY FRITZ: And the last name is just a House
Resolution.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH): So I don't have to vote on
that one.

WENDY FRITZ: So just talk about --

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH): Right. Thank you so much.

WENDY FRITZ: Thank you very much.

SENATOR SOMERS (18TH): Bye bye.

WENDY FRITZ: Hopefully, this was our last meeting
so, hopefully. Thank you.