



**Testimony  
Betsy Gara  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Council of Small Towns  
Before the Transportation Committee  
February 19, 2021**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) **supports HB-6426 – An Act Concerning Recommendations by the Connecticut Airport Authority regarding the Provision of Security Services and Meteorological Evaluation Towers.**

Bradley International Airport and Connecticut's other airports are critical to supporting the state's overall economic development and growth strategy.

Unfortunately, escalating fringe benefit costs are threatening the ongoing viability of Bradley Airport, putting Bradley at a competitive disadvantage. If Bradley Airport is not in a position to attract and retain airlines and routes, this would devastate the local economies of communities surrounding the airport and undermine our state's overall economic development strategy.

Minor adjustments to non-union retirement plan benefits, which CAA has recommended, will result in significant savings for Bradley, which will position it to attract and retain airlines, ensuring its long-term viability.

COST urges lawmakers to amend HB-6426 to incorporate CAA's recommendations to make these adjustments.

COST urges **support** for **HB-6426**.

Thank you.

*COST is an advocacy organization committed to giving small towns a strong voice in the legislative process. Its members are Connecticut towns with populations of less than 30,000. COST champions the major policy needs and concerns of Connecticut's suburban and rural towns.*