



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546



Office of the
Commissioner

An Equal Opportunity Employer

**Public Hearing – February 23, 2011
Transportation Committee**

**Testimony Submitted by Interim Commissioner Jeffrey A. Parker
Department of Transportation**

**S.B. 709 - An Act Increasing Access Fees for Off-Airport Parking Operators at
Bradley International Airport and Clarifying the Applicability of the Sales Tax
Exemption for Valet Parking at Airports.**

The Department of Transportation (Department) acknowledges that the current fee applied to off airport vehicle parking operations at Bradley of 4% of gross revenue is below that which other similar airports charge. The Department supports the concept of increasing this fee but believes this should be addressed once we have the new independent airport authority in place.

In addition to the appropriate level of the fee being 10% as stated in the Proposed Bill as opposed to 5% as stated in the Committee Bill, the Department believes there should not be a legislative cap on this or any other fee assessed at the Airport. Such caps limit Bradley's ability to generate revenue, which in turn limits the Airport's bonding capacity as it is a self sustaining enterprise fund, which then limits the Department's ability to develop the Airport as a first class facility. This cap, and additional sales tax exemptions also applied to certain off airport parking operations, create a competitive disadvantage for the on Airport parking operator which pays the Airport over 50% of its gross receipts and is not exempt from sales tax. The competitive advantage available to off airport parking operators further encourages proliferation of parking lots in the Airport's surrounding area as opposed to economic development projects that would otherwise bring jobs and property tax increases to the local communities.

For these reasons, the Department recommends Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 15-101m of the general statutes be amended to exclude all limitations on the fees imposed upon off airport parking operators for the right to access the airport.

For further information or questions, please contact Pam Sucato, Legislative Program Manager for the Department of Transportation at (860) 594-3013.