



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Office of the  
Commissioner

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

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

#### **S.B. 717 – An Act Requiring a Parking Lot at Bradley International Airport in Which Certain Automobiles with Occupants May Remain without Charge.**

The Department of Transportation (Department) is opposed to S.B. 717 and offers the following comments.

Parking operations at Bradley International Airport are governed by the terms and conditions of a Special Obligation Parking Revenue Bond Trust Indenture between the State and First Union National Bank, and a Construction, Financing and Operating Special Facility Lease Agreement between the State and Standard Parking Corporation. The Trust Indenture provided for the sale of bonds to finance construction of the garage. The Lease Agreement gives Standard Parking the right and obligation to operate the Airport's parking facilities and collect the parking fees. Under these documents, the State has covenanted to operate the parking facilities on a revenue producing basis sufficient to meet threshold requirements of the Trust Indenture, and Standard Parking has guaranteed payment of minimum rent to the Bradley Airport enterprise fund regardless of the revenues it collects from the parking operations.

Further, the Airport's vehicle parking operator is mandated to pay minimum annual rent to the Airport of approximately \$10 million. This minimum rent is approximately 18% of the total operating revenue paid into the Bradley Airport enterprise fund. The Airport is highly dependent on this rent. Likewise, the vehicle parking operator is dependent on the collection of vehicle parking fees to pay this minimum rent to the enterprise fund. It is unreasonable for the Airport to impose this minimum guaranteed rent upon the vehicle parking operator and then, simultaneously provide free parking.

With that said, one of our airport tenants presently provides a free cell phone parking lot at the Airport.

Accordingly, the Department does not recommend passage of S.B. 717.

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