



TOWN OF EAST GRANBY

INCORPORATED 1858

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Testimony in Support of HB-5208: An Act Reimbursing Towns for the Costs of the Airport Development Zone surrounding Bradley International Airport

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Hartley, Representative Nolan, Representative Datham, and distinguished members of the Committee on Appropriations,

East Granby, Windsor, Windsor Locks and Suffield are the four towns surrounding Bradley International Airport and we comprise the economic development area known as the Bradley Development Zone (BDZ). I am writing in support of HB-5208 which will restore state funding to the BDZ through grants to the municipalities for the costs associated with the BDZ.

Bradley International Airport, New England's second largest airport, is a major economic driver for the State of Connecticut, the region, and the surrounding towns. In 2011, the Bradley Development Zone was created by the Legislature to seize upon the airport's full economic development potential. The BDZ extends tax incentives to companies that develop or acquire property in the zone and engage in manufacturing, manufacturing-related research and development, warehousing and distribution, and other airport-related businesses. Incentives are offered to eligible businesses located in certain areas of the four towns.

The original legislation specified that a portion of the five-year cost of the tax incentives be reimbursed to the towns by the state. Over the years, this state funding has been eliminated. We all agree that a vibrant BDZ, with the cost of incentives fairly balanced, creates new jobs, attracts new capital, and ultimately increases tax revenue to the state and municipalities in the zone.

Sincerely,

James M. Hayden
First Selectman