



HELP SAVE HARTFORD-BRAINARD AIRPORT



Hartford-Brainard Airport Association Opposes Senate Bill # 463

“An Act Concerning an Analysis of the Avenues to Maximize the Value of Certain State-Owned Real Property”

What this Bill *really* means...

A *veiled* attempt to close Brainard Airport for good and replace it with a “yet to be defined” alternative development project

Why this effort is a bad idea for Connecticut

In October 2021, the Hartford City Council created a commission to close Brainard Airport, and redevelop the South Meadow “with anticipated increase to the city’s grand list and creating job opportunities for residents.”

HBAA believes that this controversial venture is speculative, very expensive, highly disruptive to existing jobs, services and businesses and highly unlikely to succeed.

- **It wastes** \$ 1.5 mil in precious state resources to do an *unfounded* and *biased* analysis of airport property that would consider redeveloping the property and replace it with a speculative and expensive development project.
- **It ignores** the comprehensive and unbiased 2016 study by the *Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee* that already determined that retaining the property as an airport is the highest and best use.
 - The nonpartisan PRI staff recommended that the State should take steps to **maximize** Hartford Brainard Airport’s value (not close it) because:
 - ⇒ The airport’s **overall benefits** to the economy **outweigh its costs**.
 - ⇒ Airport closure would be **extremely difficult**.
 - ⇒ Redevelopment would be **highly complex, time consuming** and very **expensive** with an uncertain outcome.
 - ⇒ If properly supported and allowed to reach its potential, the airport would yield a significant return on investment (ROI).



- **It Risks** public health and safety by ignoring existing documentation that the property is **highly contaminated** with toxic chemicals:
 - Coal Tar was deposited on the Brainard property decades ago. If disturbed by construction, it would release benzene gas, a known carcinogen, creating to a public health crisis.
 - A recent DEEP study of the adjacent MIRA property completed in 2018 **conclusively** found that:
 - ⇒ The property contains arsenic, lead, mercury, PCB's and other volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in **unacceptable levels** for any residential activities.
 - ⇒ "The property should be maintained **as is** to prevent human exposure to toxic materials."
 - ⇒ "No residential activity shall be permitted in the properties **in their entirety**."

Declaration of Environmental Land Use Restrictions and Grant of Easement
 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
 300 Maxim Road and 100 Reserve Road
 April 11, 2018

- **It Prevents** the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA) from accepting federal airport improvement grants, executing ground leases and making necessary safety and infrastructure investments.
- **It Undermines** existing operations:
 - ⇒ Several successful aviation businesses
 - ⇒ A highly successful State supported Aero technical school
 - ⇒ 3 very active pilot training operations
 - ⇒ Law enforcement aircraft, operations
 - ⇒ Life saving first responder operations
- **It loses** \$56 mil in annual GDP economic impact generated by Brainard Airport if the airport were to close.

***Overall, Bill #463 is just a bad idea for so many reasons
 and
 It is an expensive, highly speculative and risky venture.***

HBAA urges you to vote NO on Senate Bill 463



**Hartford Brainard
 Airport Association**

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