



# HELP SAVE HARTFORD-BRAINARD AIRPORT

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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.



## 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

- 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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