

## Questions for Connecticut Airport Authority Board of Directors Nominee

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## Connecticut Airport Authority (<u>CGS §§ 15-120bb</u> & <u>15-120cc</u>)

The Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA) is a quasi-public agency responsible for developing, improving, and operating Bradley International Airport; five of the general aviation airports in the state (Danielson, Groton-New London, Hartford-Brainard, Waterbury-Oxford, and Windham); and any other airports it subsequently owns, operates, and manages. CAA's powers and duties include executing contracts, borrowing money, issuing bonds, and hiring employees. It is governed by an 11-member board comprised of gubernatorial and legislative appointees and state officials. Appointed board members must have business and management experience as well as experience and expertise in one or more of the following areas: financial planning, budgeting and assessment, marketing, master planning, aviation, and transportation management.

## Questions

- 1. Why do you want to continue serving on the CAA board? What will be your priorities and what do you hope to accomplish during your tenure?
- 2. This past January, the United States saw its first major airline plane crash since 2009 when a plane collided with a helicopter in the very crowded airspace around Reagan National Airport. This crash, as well as recent news reports of several other close calls, have increased the public's anxiety about air travel. What is your assessment of safety, particularly in the airspace, at Bradley Airport? What can the state, and the CAA specifically, do to ensure public safety and to reassure anxious travelers? Are there any improvements you would like to see?
- 3. The state tax holiday on aviation fuel started on July 1, 2023, and is set to expire at the start of FY 26, which is when the new aviation fuel tax (15 cents per gallon) takes effect (PA 23-204, §§ 368 & 370). A portion of the previous tax on aviation fuel, and the entirety of the

new one, must be used for airport purposes. Has the temporary loss of this tax revenue affected CAA and its airports? Do you think the new tax imposed as of July 1, 2025, strikes the right balance between providing funding for airports and maintaining Connecticut as an attractive location for airlines?

- 4. There are currently a number of projects underway at Bradley Airport and more planned in the future to modernize the airport. Can you give an overview of the short, mid-term, and long-term projects and a progress update? What opportunities will these projects create for Bradley?
- 5. What airlines are expanding their routes at Bradley Airport, and what destinations have been recently added? What new routes would you like to see in the future? How can Bradley Airport best attract these new routes?
- 6. Tweed-New Haven Airport, the state's second largest airport, continues to expand and add more routes. Tweed is not managed by CAA, but by the Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority. What is the relationship between the CAA and Tweed's Authority? How should the two work together to improve air service in the state?
- 7. What opportunities exist at Connecticut's general aviation airports? How can CAA help the general aviation airports reach their full potential?
- 8. CAA had been a part of discussions with Bridgeport about potentially buying or managing Sikorsky Memorial Airport, but negotiations ended when the fuel tax holiday started in July 2023 due to CAA's uncertainty about long-term funding for general aviation airports. Have talks with Bridgeport resumed? Do you think the airport has potential, and is there a role CAA could play in realizing that potential?
- 9. How should CAA ensure that its capital projects are coordinated with the state's other transportation projects? How can the state ensure that its passenger airports are effectively connected to public transportation?
- 10. What effect do the state's airports have on Connecticut's economy? What types of businesses are supported by Bradley Airport and by the general aviation airports? How can CAA better leverage its airports to grow the state's economy?

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