

**Dannel P. Malloy**

GOVERNOR  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

July 8, 2011

The Honorable Denise Merrill  
Secretary of the State  
30 Trinity Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Madam Secretary:

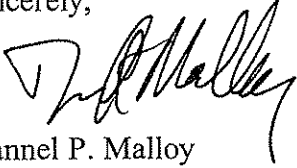
I am hereby returning without my signature substitute House Bill 6529, *An Act Promoting Economic Development In The Area Surrounding Oxford Airport*. This legislation would extend significant tax exemptions and corporate business tax credits to a large area that encompasses much more land than the area immediately near Oxford Airport, and would include census tracts not only in Oxford, but also in Middlebury and Southbury. The state would reimburse those municipalities for up to one half of the lost tax revenues from development in the areas covered within those three towns.

While this legislation, on a more limited scale, might be advantageous or desirable in the future, it is premature now. The General Assembly passed Senate Bill 1003, *An Act Concerning the Connecticut Airport Authority*, this last session, and I signed it into law last week. The Connecticut Airport Authority ("CAA") is an important initiative for the state, and is intended to bring a cohesive, integrated and systematic structure to the operation, management and development of the general aviation airports in Connecticut, including Oxford Airport. Specifically, pursuant to Section 3 of Senate Bill 1003, the CAA is charged with ensuring that the economic development potential of airports such as Oxford Airport is fully realized. Further, the CAA must ensure that the appropriate mission statements, business plans, minimum development standards and strategic goals are established for the state's airports and that progress in these areas is regularly assessed. Finally, the CAA must approve master plans for the state's airports, and must establish and review policies and plans for the development, lease and use of airport property.

Clearly, the CAA must play a significant role in the economic development future of Oxford Airport and the surrounding areas. Given this fact -- and the importance of developing one integrated approach to our initiatives in this field -- it is premature to approve an airport development zone that includes areas surrounding Oxford Airport and beyond before the CAA has the opportunity to properly analyze and consider the implications of such a zone in the context of its larger mission purpose.

For these reasons, I disapprove of substitute House Bill 6529, *An Act Promoting Economic Development In The Area Surrounding Oxford Airport*. Pursuant to Section 15 of Article Fourth of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut, I am returning substitute House Bill 6529 without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Malloy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping tail.

Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor