

**Prepared Testimony of the City of New Haven**  
Respectfully submitted to the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding in support of  
Tweed New Haven Regional Airport



City of New Haven  
John DeStefano, Jr.  
Mayor

996

**RE: SB ~~998~~, An Act Establishing the Connecticut Emergency Economic Investment Commission**

Senator Daily, Representative Staples and members of the Committee, my name is Michael Piscitelli and I am the Director of the Transportation, Traffic and Parking Department of the City of New Haven. I appear before you on behalf of the City, requesting your support for an amendment to SB 996 as it concerns Tweed New Haven Regional Airport.

Specifically, we are seeking that the Committee vote against Section 34 of the bill, as this provision seeks to deauthorize a \$5.0 million capital bond which is designated for renovations, improvements and safety programs at Tweed Airport.

As you may know, Tweed is one of only two Connecticut airports certified as Class I by the Federal Aviation Administration and we proud to have US Airways as its main tenant, providing five scheduled weekday flights out of New Haven.

The FAA, under its Part 77 regulations, requires that Tweed maintain a navigable airspace in the vicinity of the Airport for safe landing and take-off of aircraft. With that in mind, Tweed recently completed an Aeronautical Study which identified over 160 obstructions which must be removed in order to bring Tweed into compliance with federal regulation. In no uncertain terms, Airport safety programs are a national priority and the State has agreed to partner with Tweed in this regard.

Likewise, Tweed understands that it must improve in a responsible manner. The Airport Authority recently introduced "Time is Now", a comprehensive program of commercial service growth to three- to four- hub cities, as well as noise attenuation systems, traffic calming and other measures to mitigate the impact of airport operations on the surrounding neighborhoods. The capital bond supports these efforts and, in turn, the economic well being of southern Connecticut.

Respectful of the many budget pressures facing the State, I sincerely appreciate your time and consideration of this urgent matter.

Respectfully submitted to the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding, March 2, 2009.

CITY OF NEW HAVEN

---

Michael Piscitelli, AICP  
Director  
Transportation, Traffic and Parking Department