

Testimony Regarding Tweed-New Haven Regional Airport

Presented To: The State of Connecticut General Assembly

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Introduction: AvPORTS has been privileged to operate and manage Tweed-New Haven Regional Airport (HVN) on behalf of the Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority since 1998. We view HVN as an essential part of Connecticut's transportation infrastructure and strongly support the Bills (6270, 745) that are under consideration. The alternative is to close the airport which presents considerable negative ramifications for the Region and the State. What follows is the reasoning supporting passage of the Bills:

- **AvPorts is the largest private sector operator of certificated small/medium sized airports (like HVN) in the US**
 - We manage 7 airports including HVN – one of only two air carrier airports in CT
 - we know the region well; and know what is possible at and for HVN
- **Downgrading or closing HVN would cost the State/City nearly \$100M**
 - mainly to repay AIP funds as per grant assurance agreement
 - lost economic opportunities (today - \$20M and projected \$60M)
- **From our experience, and for a fraction of that cost, HVN can be made to be self-sufficient in 5 – 7 years, and remain a valuable economic engine**
- **Why are we so confident?**
 - We have done this before at another of our airports
 - NATA in 2000: “HVN is one of the 100 most needed Airports in the US”
 - the GNH Region is one of the Top 60 largest air catchment regions in the US, and certainly among the most affluent
 - the HVN catchment generates 2.8M EPAX per year, of which:

▪ BDL (captures)	1.46M (52%)
▪ NY Area Airports	1.18M (42%)
▪ HVN	40,000 (1.4%)
 - a “viable” HVN would definitely capture a greater share of its own catchment – not Bradley's but a larger share of the NY market.
- **With (i) modest upgrades, (ii) proper management, and (iii) adequate external funding support for a limited period of time, we are confident HVN can become both self-sufficient and neighborhood-friendly, in 5 – 7 yrs**
- **If the State would subsidize HVN by \$1.5M/yr this fiscal year and then – as we move forward - that number will go down to \$0 in 5 – 7 yrs, we can make the Airport viable and do so in a good-neighborly way**