

**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

**RE: SB 25, An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes**

Senator Daily, Representative Staples and members of the Committee, my name is Tony Bialecki and I am the Director of the Office of Business Development for the City of New Haven. I appear before you on behalf of Mayor John DeStefano, Jr., urging your support for Tweed New Haven Regional Airport.

As you know, Tweed is one of only two Connecticut airports certified as Class I by the Federal Aviation Administration and we are proud to have US Airways as its main tenant, providing five scheduled weekday flights out of New Haven. We working hard to position Tweed as a regional-significant airport and have made important strides of late.

Last year, Mayor DeStefano, Jr. and East Haven Mayor April Capone Almon together with state legislators and the Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority reached agreement on the "Time is Now" program for responsible airport growth and development. Since the agreement was signed, Tweed completed over \$30 million in infrastructure investments, including new runway safety areas, taxiway improvements and upgrades to the main terminal. The Tweed bond is essential to next phase of work, which includes the removal of off-airport obstructions and the implementation of "good neighbor" programs.

**In specific terms, we urge the Committee to reject and remove Section 42 of SB 25**, as this provision seeks to deauthorize a \$5.0 million capital bond which is designated for these renovations, improvements and safety programs at Tweed Airport. Even in difficult economic times, please consider – as we do – the economic development value of Tweed New Haven Airport and support its efforts.

Respectfully submitted to the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding, March 22, 2010.

CITY OF NEW HAVEN

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Tony Bialecki  
Director  
Office of Business Development