

Transportation Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7143

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LENGTH OF RUNWAY 2-20 AT TWEED-NEW

Title: HAVEN AIRPORT.

Vote Date: 3/20/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/4/2019

File No.: 418

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Rep. Josh Elliott, 88th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

To extend the length of the runway at Tweed-New Haven airport to accommodate larger jets for increased travel and destinations. Currently tweed runway length limits the size of aircraft that can safely land and take off, this in turn limits the destinations Tweed can offer flights to and from.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Ned Lamont, Governor, State of Connecticut-

To get Connecticut growing again, we have to get Connecticut moving again. The building blocks of the state's economic future are modern trains and highways that connect us to Boston and New York City, as well as convenient airports that connect our residents and businesses to the world.

I heard from residents, small businesses, innovative start-ups, and large employers that the distance from their homes and jobs to a convenient airport was impacting their quality of life and their ability to attract and retain talent. Restoring even modest service from Tweed to destinations and international hubs like Atlanta, Chicago, Washington, D.C., or Florida will connect residents with their families and companies with the customers and investors they need to grow.

Thanks in part to Pratt & Whitney engines, modern aircraft are quieter and more environmentally friendly than the propeller planes that used to service the airport, but they also require a longer runway to safely operate. I am dedicated to using the next steps this

statute would allow, like zoning hearings, environmental reviews, and a hard look at the airport's governance structure, to explore how Tweed can fulfill its potential and fairly provide a benefit to everyone in the community.

This is not a New Haven or an East Haven issue, it's a regional issue that affects the state's economy.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

The following local Businesses and associations voiced their support for this bill due to the the increase ease of air travel at Tweed Airport and the associated economic gains to the greater new haven region.

Dr. Sukh Grewal Co-founder, CEO, Veoci
Antony Fartaria Business Travel Sales Manager Omni New Haven at Yale
Michael & Tony Schaffer, Principals, C.A. White, Inc.
Jeffrey C. Solomon, Partner, Marcum LLP New Haven
Lori Vitagliano Regional Water Authority (RWA)
John Houston, CEO Arvinas
William Neale, Radial USA Inc.
South Central Regional Council Of Governments (SCRCOG)
Josh Cohen CEO - The Junkluggers
Shoreline Chamber of Commerce
Madison Economic Development Commission
Cowork at District, LLC,
Ginny Kozlowski, REX Development
Elm Street Ventures
Fred A. Messorre Commissioner of Planning and Development City of West Haven
Apollo Investment Properties
District New Haven LLC
Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce- Avangrid,
Alexion
Arts Council of Greater New Haven
ASSA ABLOY
Biorez,
CA White
CT Bio
CT Tourism Coalition
DISTRICT New Haven
Ferguson & McGuire Insurance
Fitstyle by Shana
My Language Link
New Haven Manufacturing Association
Prometheus Research
The Outtrim Group
Ulbrich Stainless Steels and Special Metals
Yale New Haven Health
Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce

Technolutions

We host a monthly training event in New Haven, and within the past year, more than 800 individuals came to New Haven and spent more than 3,000 hotel nights downtown. Many of these visitors would prefer to fly into New Haven but are unable to do so because of the limited selection of routes available.

Michael Piscitelli, Interim Economic Development Administrator for the City of New Haven

Over 60% of the air travelers from Tweed's market area use JFK and LGA. This a remarkable missed opportunity for Connecticut.

More robust air service development will generate revenue to support the operational needs of the Airport Authority. Since 2014, City of New Haven taxpayers have invested approximately \$5.0 million in operating and capital support for Tweed. However, with a Grand List now at 56% tax exempt, the City will face increasing pressures to support regional assets and will need the airport to become more self-sufficient.

Over 20 Members of the Public

Submitted email testimony voicing their support for this bill as it has the potential to alleviate traffic congestion, provide ease of access for more air travel destinations, and provide an economic gain to the region.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Salvatore Decola, Alder Ward 18 & Jody Ortiz Alder, Ward 17 of the City of New Haven

Oppose this bill on the grounds that the majority of their constituents object to this measure.

Len Fasano State Senate Republican Leader

In 2009 legislation was passed that bars Tweed from lengthening its runway. This legislation was the result of negotiations with all stakeholders and reflects an agreement reached by all parties including the airport, former New Haven Mayor, former East Haven Mayor, and legislators representing local constituents.

If Tweed desires expanding its runway it must go through the legislative process to revise the 2009 law. In addition, this process should not happen without significant input and consideration from the communities of East Haven and New Haven.

The residents of East Haven and New Haven who live in the vicinity of the airport purchased their homes and made the decision to live in this community with the understanding that the 2009 agreement was in place. Any proposal to revise this agreement, and increase air traffic and road traffic to the airport, therefore must take into account the local community and their

concerns. For example, a plan must be developed regarding traffic to the airport and impact on local neighborhood roads.

Over 80 Members of the Public

Submitted digital testimony noting their objection to this bill which could increase air traffic and negatively impact quality of life for local residents as well as property values.

Reported by: Philip Mainiero

Date: 4/5/19