

Dear Committee:

I strongly support practical measures to bring more commercial passenger jet service to Tweed Airport, including by providing incentives and policies that would allow a modest runway expansion there.

Encouraging additional commercial airline service at Tweed is critical to the economy of the entire state. No other urban areas of our density and economic activity face the same travel limitations that we do in Southern Connecticut, which represents a large slice of the state's economy.

I frequently travel from New Haven to places throughout the United States for business. For business travel from the New Haven area, Bradley is a very inconvenient option relative to any other city I have ever flown to or from. From Tweed, the connections in Philadelphia are quite limited relative to the connections that one could reach through a typical small airport that has daily flights to a handful of airport hubs like Chicago, Atlanta, Washington DC, and Detroit.

This issue is clearly a major concern throughout the Greater New Haven business community, and one that I think is fairly easy to solve.

Based on anecdotal information and my own experience, I strongly believe that more than a few businesses, events, and other activities are not even considering coming to Southern Connecticut due to the lack of convenient air service here. Given changing technology, this situation could get worse if the airport runway is not extended. There used to be many more flights out of Tweed. Over time, maintaining the transportation infrastructure that allows businesses and events to consider coming to the New Haven area could go a long way to improving Connecticut's overall budget outlook.

Mark Abraham
Resident
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