

To the Chair of the Transportation Committee:

"My wife and I have resided on Morris Avenue in Morris Cove since October 10, 2007. We are horrified to learn of the plans to expand the Tweed runway.

"As a native of the Bronx, New York, and one who has resided in every borough of New York City over the span of 20 years, I can attest to the negative impact of airport expansion. Indeed one of the reasons I relocated to New Haven, Connecticut, was to escape the relentless pollution and increased industrialization of my beloved Bronx barrio.

"Morris Cove – home to Lighthouse Point Park, and the Nature Preserve, a literal sanctuary for wildlife – represents a safe haven, not only for its residents and tourists, but *anyone* seeking respite, relaxation or recreation. Our neighborhood is a destination: a welcome escape from the stressors of everyday life, where folks can enjoy walking, swimming, hiking, biking, kayaking, sailing and boating. Many of these outdoor activities are done year-round.

"There is already an overabundance of air pollution and air traffic from this airport, creating horrendous, persistent noise (plans to retrofit homes in the immediate area with soundproofing do nothing to help residents on other streets or those of us – including birds and animals – enjoying the outdoors). Airport expansion would lead to increased traffic in the air and on the street, resulting in harmful diesel and other fuel emissions, not to mention additional hazards of noise and congestion.

"Expansion also presents overall dangerous situations for this residential neighborhood – note, the operative word here is RESIDENTIAL. There have been several airplane crashes over the years resulting in numerous fatalities. Our quality of life is being destroyed by the air traffic, whether it's training missions or commercial airlines.

"Property values will surely decline – who wants to buy a home in a neighborhood surrounded by the constant sound, sight and stench of commercial jets and traffic congestion? As a registered voter and concerned citizen, I respectfully request that you reject the bill." -- Janis Astor del Valle, Resident, Registered Voter, Homeowner, Taxpayer

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