



State of Connecticut

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**Transportation Committee public hearing
Monday, March 4, 2019 at 10:30 A.M.
Room 1E of the LOB**

Senator Leone, Representative Lemar, Senator Martin, Representative Devlin and members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding H.B. 7143 An Act Concerning the Length of Runway 2-20 at Tweed-New Haven Airport.

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. This settlement was something all parties worked hard to develop together and balance the needs of the airport with that of the local community.

It is unfortunate that this agreement and resulting state law has not been respected by certain parties over the years, with the airport taking the state to court to try to break this agreement and the new mayor of New Haven also attempting to circumvent clear, defined state law as it pertains to this settlement.

That aside, clearly 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. In addition, incentives or public improvements for those who live directly near the airport also must be discussed.

I urge the committee in considering this bill to also consider the local community impact and the importance of involving both New Haven and East Haven residents and all stakeholders in this conversation.

Len Fasano
Senate Republican Leader