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Matthew T. Hoey III
First Selectman

March 4, 2019

Transportation Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2300
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: H.B. No. 7143 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE LENGTH OF RUNWAY 2-20 AT TWEED-NEW HAVEN AIRPORT

Senator, Leone, Representative Lemar and the members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to address you today regarding H. B. No. 7143 An act concerning the length of runway 2-20at Tweed-New Haven Airport

I am Matt Hoey and, since December 2018, have had the honor of serving as the First Selectman for the Town of Guilford, a wonderful community, yet very much dependent on the Greater New Haven region for a variety of services, employment and cultural offerings.

In full disclosure, I have served as a South Central Regional Council of Government representative on the Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority Board of Directors since the fall of 2015. More recently, I was appointed as the Interim Executive Director of the Airport Authority, temporarily filling the void created when one of your colleagues, Senator Tim Larson, stepped down to take a position in the Lamont Administration.

You will be or have been presented with testimony today that stresses the importance of a vibrant airport, offering reliable and cost effective service for business and personal travel beyond what is available today from Tweed-New Haven Airport as a result of the current restriction on runway 2-20.

As to the importance of a viable airport, just last week, Achillion Pharmaceuticals, a long-time New Haven biotech firm, announced they were relocating to Philadelphia and cited access to major airports as one of their reasons for relocating. Would a more vibrant Tweed-New Haven Airport prevent others from following suit? I have not attended an Economic Development Committee or Shoreline Chamber of Commerce event where I haven't had at least one conversation with a business owner who is dismayed by the limited air travel options into and out of Tweed-New Haven.

I would like to clear up a common misconception. With the passage of this bill, Tweed-New Haven is not expanding the airport's foot print. We are not proposing to extend the runway. The

proposal is to pave the existing runway safety areas to accommodate the newer aircraft being used by most carriers. The Authority has diligently courted other carriers and has consistently heard that there is great interest in this underserved market but, that interest is conditioned on the resolution of the runway issue.

As you are no doubt aware, we have recently entered into discussions with the Connecticut Airport Authority to discuss potential benefits from consolidation with CAA. It is interesting to note that CAA's stated goal is "to make the CAA's airports more attractive to new routes, new commerce and new companies who maybe considering making Connecticut their home". We'd like to add making Greater New Haven their home regardless of the outcome of the discussions with CAA.

Rightfully so, there has been a focus on community benefits for those who live in the area around the airport. We feel we have been a good neighbor, consistently inviting the community to partake in our board meetings and we welcome working with the community to ensure the airport can most appropriately serve their needs.

Of particular note is the Community Noise Mitigation Initiative which provides area homeowners with comprehensive Residential Sound Insulation installations and improvements. Approximately \$9 million has been spent or authorized to complete this work on 131 homes. The final phase of this project will add an additional 58 homes at \$3.6 million for a total of 189 homes and \$12.6 million. While most of these funds are federal, The State of CT will have supplemented the initiative with over \$700K and the local governmental share being in excess of \$540K.

Tweed-New Haven Airport is prepared to continue to work with the area residents, municipalities and state legislators to identify any other potential community benefits that might be appropriate.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.



Matthew T. Hoey, III
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