

Transportation Committee Public Hearing
Thursday, March 14, 2019

Senator Leone, Representative Lemar, Senator Looney, Representative Devlin and members of the transportation committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **H.B. 7143 AN ACT CONCERNING THE LENGTH OF RUNWAY 2-20 AT TWEED NEW HAVEN AIRPORT.**

On behalf of Holberton School New Haven, I am asking that you support passage of this bill. This bill will eliminate the statutory limit on the length of Tweed's primary runway. It is our expectation that this change will open the door for new commercial service at Tweed with additional destinations and flights.

Holberton School is a higher education program aimed at training individuals from all walks of life to become highly skilled full stack software engineers in less than two years. The program was launched three years ago in Silicon Valley, and our New Haven campus is the first campus extension and the first on the East Coast.

We are in the midst of the 4th Industrial Revolution, and nearly every industry in our state is forced to navigate the digital transformation, and therefore in dire need of the talent we will graduate. In short, we play a critical role in providing our region with the talent needed to remain relevant and viable—in our state alone, there currently are over 2500 open software engineering jobs (a number that is projected to grow significantly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics), and our traditional higher education institutions only graduate about 400 computer science majors per year—not enough to keep up with the demand.

Connecticut is known for innovation, home to several tech companies and start-ups, as well as many large companies which contribute to the state's economy in its key industries (manufacturing, financial services, insurance and health sciences). Many of these companies, even those founded here, have been forced to relocate their tech centers (or entirely) to other geographies where tech talent is more available and accessible.

Tweed New Haven Airport could be important for Holberton School because:

- Improved/simplified travel & accessibility for students will enhance our ability to recruit and attract prospects from the East Coast/North East
- Supporting travel & accessibility for mentors will expand the network of support for our students—mentors play a critical role in the professional development of our students and post-graduation placement
- It would create an incentive for companies to stay here through improved/simplified travel, which will in turn create even more jobs for our graduates and further fuel our state's economic development
- We are between New York and Boston, as well as Stamford and Hartford, and the airport would give our region a boost in its competitive advantage and “place it on the map” in a way that can only be accomplished through an airport.
- It would enable increased on-site collaboration between all of our campuses (San Francisco, Bogota, Medellin), which is a benefit and draw for current & prospective students.

An extended runway at Tweed New Haven Airport supports our region's economic development in many critical ways. More flights and destinations increase accessibility to New Haven. With more ways to get in and out, our businesses gain access to markets, talent, innovation, and productivity increases.

I strongly urge the committee to support this bill and encourage economic growth in the greater New Haven region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nadine Krause", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Nadine Krause
Director, Holberton School New Haven