

Transportation Committee Public Hearing  
Monday, February 25, 2019

Senator Leone, Representative Lemar, Senator Martin, 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 Elm Street Ventures, 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.

Elm Street Ventures is an early stage venture capital firm located in New Haven that has invested in twenty-two companies, eighteen of which have been located in the greater New Haven area. These companies have raised over \$500 million in capital and, at their peaks, employed over 200 people in Connecticut. We have access to innovative technology, with thirteen of our portfolio companies holding licenses from Yale University. Our biggest challenge in starting companies in New Haven is attracting experienced employees and enough capital. Lack of easy access to air transportation is a major hurdle. Candidates and investors are turned off by a long drive on congested highways from a New York airport to reach New Haven.

An extended runway at Tweed New Haven Airport will address that issue and support our region's economic development. 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,



Christopher K. McLeod  
Managing Partner