

To the Committee:

As a 30 year resident of Connecticut (first New Haven, then Hamden, and now Madison), and as a senior leader at Yale School of Medicine and Yale-New Haven Hospital, the negative impact of restricting air service at Tweed Airport cannot be overestimated. Each year my Department hosts over 100 visitors; the need for circuitous routing leads to enormous costs and waste for transportation to and from the New York or Rhode Island airports, not to mention the lost opportunities not only for New Haven, but also for visitors who just chose to decline our invitations due to their own tight schedules and the difficulty of getting to New Haven. Similar impacts were experienced by the start-up firms I have been engaged with (e.g. Excelexis, Alexion, Atlantic Consultants), all of which ultimately chose to leave New Haven.

New Haven should be a beacon of innovation and vitality, the crown jewel of Connecticut. Without better air service, this cannot happen. It is time to stop the obstructionism, and bring Connecticut and New Haven into the 21st century.

Sincerely

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