

To whom it may concern

I am writing to urge the General Assembly to move forward on the Tweed enhancement legislation this year. I grew up in East Haven, right on Dodge Avenue . I want to tell you a story about what it was like to be near Tweed. So please bear with my nostalgia.

When we had a family picnic or gathering and the kids needed a treat (or the adults needed some peace), my Dad would have us all pile into the car and he would take us to the airport. We would spend hours watching the planes, big and small take-off and land. As we got older, we would bike down and lay at the end of the runways(no fences , no security) and watch as planes soared up and away. When my folks had a place in Florida, we could take a shuttle to Newark (Continental) and go direct to West Palm, 2 ½ hours door to door. We saw JFK give a speech at night on the edge of Tuttle Brook a few months before his assassination; I shook hands with Bobby Kennedy when he passed through campaigning, as well as Sargent Shriver, Bill Clinton and countless others. We watched the royal yacht Britannia sail past Fort Hale during the Bicentennial and then we ran over to Tweed to see Queen Elizabeth , Prince Philip , Gov. Grasso and Lt. Gov. O'Neil as Air Force 1 took the Queen to celebrations in D.C. It was a time when we put men on the moon, and reached for the stars. Tweed was our local door to the world. For some reason we have lost that vision of exploration and progress . Now we allow a handful of residents, who knowingly bought a house by an airport, hold our regional growth hostage. I travel a lot for pleasure and routinely fly out of NY airports because the options from Tweed are severely limited. Here in New Haven our world class institutions need to be able to attract top students, professors and innovators. Transportation is key to growing our economy. We need to innovate and grow to compete with a changing world. We have great assets in Greater New Haven but unless we re-open our door to the world we will be no more than a road sign on the way to or from New York or Boston.

Your leadership is needed now. Please push forward on the Tweed enhancements this year.

Thanks for listening.

Jim Perito

Jperito56@gmail.com

RESPONSES TO:



James J. Perito, Esq.
Halloran & Sage LLP
265 Church Street Suite 802
New Haven, CT 06510