

**CITY OF NEW HAVEN**  
**TONI N. HARP, MAYOR**



**PREPARED COMMENT OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN**

RE: AN ACT CONCERNING THE LENGTH OF THE RUNWAY AT  
TWEED-NEW HAVEN AIRPORT

March 4, 2019

Senator Leone and Representative Lemar, my name is Michael Piscitelli and I am serving as the interim Economic Development Administrator for the City of New Haven. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Mayor Toni Harp and the City of New Haven concerning Raised Bill #7143, an Act Concerning the Length of the Runway at Tweed-New Haven Airport.

New Haven has been at the forefront of economic growth in Connecticut, with over \$1.2 billion invested in the innovation economy. New Haven has a global presence in many important economic sectors, including in higher education, health care, the life sciences and other innovative technologies. There is a strong and positive trajectory in these sectors. New Haven is home to a community of high-skill and mission-driven professionals, who collaborate with peers from around the world. We need to support them with viable air service, by upgrading the airfield in a timely fashion and in a manner that is respectful of Tweed's neighbors.

With that in mind, the City wishes to make the following observations in support of Tweed's infrastructure and air service development goals:

- Air travel from Southern Connecticut is time-intensive and inconvenient. Upgrades at Tweed will ensure that visitors to Connecticut are welcomed in Connecticut. Over 60% of the air travelers from Tweed's market area use JFK and LGA. This a remarkable missed opportunity for Connecticut and the reason we need Tweed as a "southern tier" complement to Bradley, which is in the Hartford/Springfield market.
- From a fiscal perspective, more robust air service development will generate revenue to support the operational needs of the Airport Authority. Since 2014, City of New Haven taxpayers have invested

approximately \$5.0 million in operating and capital support for Tweed. Together with state assistance, this has allowed Tweed to maintain its FAA certificate. However, with a Grand List now at 56% tax exempt, the City will face increasing pressures to support regional assets and we both need the airport to become more self-sufficient.

- Given Tweed's location in the East Shore, the City continues to support and invest in projects that mitigate the impacts of a commercial airport in the neighborhood. Recent and successful projects include traffic calming measures; noise mitigation, which at full implementation, will sound-proof over 180 homes; and the Morris Creek / tide gate improvements, which have dramatically reduced flooding in the Morris Cove section.

To underscore the importance of Tweed, not only to its neighbors and to the City, please consider this representative testimonial, provided by Alexander Clark of Technolutions:

*I write to you as the Chief Executive Officer of Technolutions, a software company headquartered in New Haven, Connecticut that works with more than 700 colleges and universities worldwide. We host a monthly training event in New Haven, and within the past year, more than 800 individuals came to New Haven and spent more than 3,000 hotel nights downtown. Many of these visitors would prefer to fly into New Haven but are unable to do so because of the limited selection of routes available. I strongly support the extension of the runway, bolstering this attractiveness of this air travel option in southern Connecticut. Alexander Clark, Chief Executive Officer, Technolutions, Inc.*

Mr. Clark's testimonial is both compelling and concise. New Haven's extraordinary talent pool and prospects for innovation quite literally can impact the world and we should not stand in the way of this very meaningful work.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions about the future of Tweed, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

CITY OF NEW HAVEN



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**Michael Piscitelli, AICP**

Interim Economic Development Administrator  
City of New Haven