



March 4th, 2019

Testimony in Support of *H.B. 7143*
AN ACT CONCERNING THE LENGTH OF RUNWAY 2-20 AT TWEED NEW HAVEN AIRPORT

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 this legislation.

I am a New Haven educator and resident. Over the past few months, a cohort of other New Haven area residents and I [collected over 80 signatures urging you to vote for House Bill 7143](#). Our group is made up of teachers, small business owners, elected officials, students, retirees, and more. Please see the attached pages for the text of our petition, and for the names of those who signed.

Expanding Tweed’s runway by 1,000 feet would allow more types of planes to take off from Tweed, and would bring more destinations within our reach. The change would create [seven more flights per day at the airport, giving New Haven nonstop access to destinations like Chicago, Washington D.C., and Florida](#). The move would also make it cheaper and easier for people in the New Haven area to fly, and would add [300 jobs and \\$32 million](#) to the region’s economy.

[Four million travelers live closer to Tweed](#) than any other airport, but have to drive to Hartford, New York, or New Jersey to catch a flight. An expanded Tweed would make air travel more accessible to New Haveners who don’t have the money or time to reach faraway airports. Those without the funds to pay for a ride to Bradley or LaGuardia, or who can’t leave work early enough to catch a 7 p.m. flight out of JFK, are often stymied from visiting family, attending a funeral, or competing in a weekend sports event. A local airport—with routes to multiple hubs—would make air travel less expensive and time-consuming for many New Haven area residents.

Lengthening Tweed’s runway would be a huge stimulus and job-creator for the city. The expansion would likely add another [300 jobs and \\$32 million](#) to the region’s economy. Moreover, many of the jobs created by a Tweed runway expansion—plane technicians, pilots, baggage handlers—would be airport jobs, which pay decent, middle-class salaries. New York’s area airports have the [highest minimum wage](#) in the country: \$19 per hour. The base rate for airport workers in a smaller city, [Seatac, Washington, is \\$15 an hour](#).

Moreover, a quick look at the history of flights at Tweed Airport reveals that we have the capacity to host more flights. In the mid-1990s, before most commercial planes started to require slightly longer runways, [New Haven’s Tweed Airport served 130,000 passengers annually](#). That’s over three times the number of passengers that currently use the airport.

Expanding Tweed holds enormous promise for New Haven’s future. More flights at Tweed would not only create good-paying local jobs, but would break down barriers for New Haven area residents to travel for school, work, and family.

Senators and Representatives, it is time to let New Haven have the 21st-century airport it deserves. Residents support it. Businesses support it. City leaders support it. Now, we ask you to support it. Please vote for H.B. 7143 today.

Signed,

Michael Rady
Court Street, New Haven
New Haveners for More Flights at Tweed

Please see following pages for petition text and signatures



Petition: Let New Haven’s Tweed Airport Have More Flights

People across the New Haven region are coming together to demand that the Connecticut State Legislature allow New Haven's Tweed Airport to lengthen its runway. This move would create 7 more flights per day at the airport, giving New Haven nonstop access to destinations like Chicago, D.C., and Florida. Expanding the runway at New Haven's Tweed Airport would make it cheaper and easier for people in the New Haven area to fly, and would add 300 jobs and \$32 million to the region’s economy.

Join us in demanding the Connecticut State Legislature pass H.B. 7143, which would allow New Haven’s Tweed Airport to expand its runway.

	Name	City	State	Signed On
1	Michael Rady	New Haven	CT	12/6/2018
2	Tamu Rembert	New Haven	CT	12/6/2018
3	David Weinreb	New Haven	CT	12/6/2018
4	Florian Carle	New Haven	CT	12/6/2018
5	Artur Viana	New Haven	CT	12/6/2018
6	Margaret Kellogg	New Haven	CT	12/6/2018
7	Carina Gormley	New Haven	CT	12/6/2018
8	Michael Hoepf	New Haven	CT	12/6/2018
9	Andrew Forsyth	New Haven	CT	12/6/2018
10	Sohum P	New Haven	CT	12/6/2018
11	Samy Galvez	New Haven	CT	12/7/2018
12	Diana Alvarado	Milford	CT	12/7/2018
13	Andrew Giering	New Haven	CT	12/7/2018
14	Ivan Lima-Bravo	New Haven	CT	12/7/2018
15	David Valentino	New Haven	CT	12/7/2018
16	Annalise Buckert	Hamden	CT	12/7/2018
17	Sarah Fritchey	New Haven	CT	12/7/2018
18	Daniel McLeggon	New Haven	CT	12/7/2018
19	Scott Kramer	New Haven	CT	12/7/2018
20	Audrey Latura	New Haven	CT	12/7/2018
21	Mindy Le	New Haven	CT	12/7/2018
22	Anthony Allen	New Haven	CT	12/7/2018

	Name	City	State	Signed On
23	Michelle Stronz	New Haven	CT	12/7/2018
24	Janelle Van Luling	New Haven	CT	12/8/2018
25	Sean Duffy	New Haven	CT	12/8/2018
26	Shanette Robinson	New Haven	CT	12/8/2018
27	Tasonn Haynes	Meriden	CT	12/8/2018
28	Monica Joyner	New Haven	CT	12/8/2018
29	Kristin Vollero	North Haven	CT	12/8/2018
30	Lior Trestman	New Haven	CT	12/8/2018
31	Thomasine Shaw	New Haven	CT	12/8/2018
32	Eugene Foreman	New Haven	CT	12/8/2018
33	Alicity Mcknight	New Haven	CT	12/8/2018
34	Sarah Mele	New Haven	NY	12/8/2018
35	Savannah Di Giovanni	New Haven	CT	12/8/2018
36	Hannah Geller	New Haven	CT	12/8/2018
37	Kirsten Levinsohn	New Haven	CT	12/9/2018
38	Alan Presburger	New Haven	TX	12/9/2018
39	Akielly Hu	New Haven	CT	12/9/2018
40	James Levinsohn	New Haven	CT	12/9/2018
41	Ashley MacPhail	Hamden	CT	12/9/2018
42	Aastha KC	New Haven	CT	12/10/2018
43	Zen Tang	New Haven	CT	12/10/2018
44	Maria Giarrizzo	Hamden	CT	12/11/2018
45	Dwayne Jackson	New Haven	CT	12/11/2018
46	Kristen Whitney Daniels	Shelton	CT	12/12/2018
47	Aaron Bartz	Hamden	CT	12/14/2018
48	Rachel Mihalko	New Haven	CT	12/14/2018
49	John Martin	New Haven	CT	12/14/2018
50	Abby Roth	New Haven	CT	12/16/2018
51	Janna Wagner	New Haven	CT	12/18/2018
52	Nina Lentini	New Haven	CT	12/18/2018
53	Juan Carmona	New Haven	CT	12/18/2018
54	David Henderson	Branford	CT	12/18/2018
55	Stacey Shelley	New Haven	CT	12/19/2018
56	Kevin Casini	New Haven	CT	12/20/2018
57	Raven Turquoise - Moon	New Haven	CT	12/20/2018
58	Steven Winter	New Haven	CT	1/3/2019
59	Juanita Burgess	East Hartford	CT	1/4/2019

	Name	City	State	Signed On
60	Henry Chauncey	New Haven	CT	1/6/2019
61	Elizabeth Sledge	New Haven	CT	1/6/2019
62	Rachel Liu	New Haven	CT	1/6/2019
63	Daniel Gurvich	New Haven	CT	1/6/2019
64	Mark Yeckel	New Haven	CT	1/7/2019
65	Margaret Pikaart	New Haven	CT	1/7/2019
66	Joshua Kanter	New Haven	CT	1/7/2019
67	Allison Sullivan	New Haven	CT	1/9/2019
68	Ed Pikaart	New Haven	CT	1/11/2019
69	Lisa Sawin	New Haven	CT	1/15/2019
70	Stephen Sawin	New Haven	CT	1/16/2019
71	Garrett Sheehan	New Haven	CT	1/22/2019
72	Matthew Bohne	New Haven	CT	1/22/2019
73	Kevin Boubille	New Haven	CT	1/22/2019
74	Patrick Lane-Ahern	New Haven	CT	1/22/2019
75	Ethan Rodriguez-Torrent	New Haven	CT	1/22/2019
76	Josien Wolf	New Haven	CT	2/17/2019
77	Margaret Firla	West Haven	CT	2/22/2019
78	Koro Sof	Niantic	CT	2/23/2019
79	Sam Purdy	New Haven	CT	2/23/2019
80	Matthias Siber	Storrs Mansfield	CT	2/25/2019
81	Aisha Sethi	Branford	CT	3/2/2019
82	Meaghan Delucia	Branford	CT	3/2/2019
83	Ida Nelson	New Haven	CT	3/2/2019
84	Shaad Khalil	Madison	CT	3/2/2019
85	Denisse Padilla	Stamford	CT	3/2/2019
86	Stephanie Lim	Guilford	CT	3/2/2019