

To Transportation Committee:

I would like to respond to HB 7143: An Act Concerning the Length of Runway 2-20 at Tweed-New Haven Airport. Unfortunately I will be out of State travelling for business on the hearing date.

My business, Rome Fastener Corporation, has been in Connecticut since 1950. We manufacture fasteners. Our factory is located in Milford. We travel quite frequently to attend Trade Shows, visit customers, and our operations in Europe and Asia. As the owner of the company, I find myself on an airplane almost every other week. I fly from New Haven through Philadelphia whenever I can, from May - November. When it works well, this is fantastic, saving the stress and time for commuting to one of the NY airports. In the winter one cannot rely on Tweed for business flights as there are frequent cancellations due to weather and the short runway. If I could fly from New Haven to a good hub, at times that work to catch other flights, then I would fly from New Haven every time. I have many business friends who say the same.

Whenever companies thinking of moving to the area consult with us about the environment in the New Haven area, the first question is about the ease of travel from our area. The simple truth is that one has to waste 2 hours in each direction travelling to a NY airport. Hartford is not a great option when considering the variety, cost and options from a NY airport. I know of many companies that have left the area with air travel convenience an important part of the decision to leave.

It is time to rectify this. Not a single person living near Tweed purchased their homes before the airport was in existence. They knew what they were buying. These few people cannot be allowed to hold the economic prospects of the entire region hostage forever.

Please vote to allow the runways at Tweed to be lengthened.

Best Regards,

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