



Kevin A Rocco  
Biorez, Inc.  
470 James St.  
New Haven, CT 06513

March 3, 2019

**In strong support of HB-7143, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LENGTH OF RUNWAY 2-20 AT TWEED-NEW HAVEN AIRPORT.**

Representative Lemar, Senator Leone, and members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Kevin Rocco, and I am the CEO of Biorez, a medical device company developing regenerative implants for orthopedic surgery. Our technology has the potential to improve the outcomes for serious musculoskeletal injuries, and we are the first company in the world to conduct a clinical trial with a regenerative implant for ACL reconstruction.

Biorez is located in New Haven, and we are part of the growing Biotech sector that can help drive the future of Connecticut's economy with a skilled workforce and high paying jobs. New Haven is an excellent home for a biotech company because there is a great talent pool, world class universities, and a vibrant city where people are excited to work and live. With Yale New Haven Health as the State's largest employer, it is clear Connecticut's future is in healthcare, medical devices, and biotech.

However, for companies like Biorez to grow in Connecticut, local access to airports is critical. For example, Biorez does preclinical research in Australia, clinical trials in Europe, and we collaborate with a variety of surgeons and scientists throughout the country. All in, this takes a lot of flights by employees, consultants, surgeons, and investors; and rarely can we get flights to and from New Haven. Data shows that about 50% of greater New Haven travelers leave the state to catch a flight, despite Tweed being the closest option, and despite Bradley being an excellent airport. All of this can be addressed with the support and passage of HB-7143.

There is also data that suggests the lack of an adequate airport in southern Connecticut drove business out of New Haven and out of Connecticut. Many other smaller companies, many of which were incubated with ties to Yale, have also left. They did not make any headlines when they left, but some of them will grow into large companies, and they will do so outside of CT.

An expanded runway at Tweed will increase connectivity by an order of magnitude, even with only adding one or two destinations or expanding air service by 5-10%. That increased



connectivity will lead to more companies staying and growing in southern Connecticut. The estimated impact to the region's economy is about \$32 million, and will likely continue to grow as companies relocate to Connecticut and tourism expands.

I know expanding the airport will help Biorez grow, and I know there are many other companies in a similar position. I know there are some costs to expand the airport that should be addressed, such as any increases in traffic, noise, and pollution; but these costs are relatively small and the positive impact for the greater good is quite large.

I encourage you to support this bill, ensure its passage, and allow Tweed to expand as is needed to support and grow our economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Rocco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kevin" and last name "Rocco" clearly distinguishable.

Kevin A Rocco  
President & CEO  
Biorez, Inc.