



Transportation Committee Public Hearing
Thursday, March 14, 2019

Senator Leone, Representative Lemar, Senator Looney, Representative Devlin and members of the transportation committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **H.B. 7143 AN ACT CONCERNING THE LENGTH OF RUNWAY 2-20 AT TWEED NEW HAVEN AIRPORT.**

I, David Salinas, on behalf of my company and ecosystem, District New Haven LLC, am asking that you support passage of this bill.

District New Haven is the newest and most comprehensive early stage business ecosystem in the United States. We are already home to over 60 businesses and 400+ people/employees. These businesses range from single proprietors to high potential, high growth technology and innovative companies with 40+ employees. In addition, our property hosts thousands of people throughout the year for events and discussions, including most recent visitors like Ruth Porat (CFO of Google/Alphabet), Leaders in life sciences, and many more thought leaders and partners from around the globe. In addition, District is uniquely positioned to expand both in locations and in jobs.

Tweed New Haven Airport is extremely important for our business, the businesses that reside in our ecosystem and for the region. We are in constant competition for businesses evaluating our region to startup, expand or relocate. We also have many visitors coming in to engage in business and we constantly have to answer as to why it's so hard to reach New Haven.

Supporting Tweed Airport's extended runway is supporting a more competitive, more future-proof a state. We live in a very different world today where air travel is only becoming more of a prerequisite for personal, academic and business reasons. We need the money to flow inside our communities. We need to support our incredible industry clusters like the Defense industry and Life Sciences. We need to support our great corporations and startups that need talent and the ability to tap into larger geographical hubs faster. District needs a better Tweed airport. New Haven County needs a better Tweed airport. Southern Connecticut needs a better Tweed airport and Connecticut needs a better Tweed airport.

An extended runway at Tweed New Haven Airport supports all of the states economic development – not just New Haven. More flights and destinations increase accessibility to the region. With more ways to get in and out, our businesses gain access to markets, talent, innovation, and productivity increases.

I strongly urge the committee to support this bill and encourage economic growth in the greater New Haven region.

Sincerely,
David Salinas

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Salinas", written over a light blue circular stamp.

District Founder & CEO
Chairman of District Innovation & Venture Center (home to Holberton School)
Co-founder of Digital Surgeons

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