

Scheer & Company, Inc
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Transportation Committee Public Hearing
Monday, February 25, 2019

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

I, on behalf of my company, Scheer & Company, am asking that you support passage of this bill. This bill will eliminate the statutory limit on the length of Tweed's primary runway. It is our expectation that this change will open the door for new commercial service at Tweed with additional destinations and flights.

I've been an entrepreneur in the life sciences for 38 years, having built a series of companies in the state, including Achillion Pharmaceuticals, of which I served as a chairman for 8 years and remain on the Board of Directors. I've been involved in the launch and have served on the boards of Ophtherion, Inc., Axerion Therapeutics (now ReneTx, Inc.) and other private companies in the State. I've also had to launch a number of my companies in other states for a variety of reasons, however, a major issue has been access to convenient air travel. While Bradley is an option, much of my air travel requires the use of New York area airports.

Tweed New Haven Airport could be important for my business because it would provide a far more convenient option for travel to important hubs and destination airports than currently available options. As Chair of the CT Life Science Working Group, which has been organized to work with the State on enhancing the success and economic impact of life sciences in CT, I believe that having a broader range of flights from Tweed will go a long way to address the goal of attracting and retaining companies in our industry.

An extended runway at Tweed New Haven Airport supports our region's economic development. More flights and destinations increase accessibility to New Haven. 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 I. Scheer
President