

Transportation Committee Public Hearing
Thursday, March 14, 2019

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 Peter Sena II 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.

Why do we need a longer runway?

1. Tweed's scheduled passenger service is restricted to daily service to Philadelphia and weekly flights to Charlotte, due in part because regional jet aircraft need a longer runway to fly to more distant hub locations like Chicago and Charlotte. Additional destinations are vital to economic growth.
2. Nearly half (49%) of air travelers from Southern Connecticut are using New York City area airports rather than Bradley or Tweed. This is a major inconvenience to the business traveler and lost economic opportunity for Connecticut.
3. For the entire region, new airline service and/or expanded service by American to other hub cities beyond Philadelphia will attract investment to our region; support the growth of existing businesses and make it easier for people to travel to and from New Haven for business and academic reasons as well as for tourism.

Tweed New Haven Airport is/could be important for my business because . . .

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,

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