



Transportation Committee Public Hearing
Monday, March 4, 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.**

On behalf of the members of the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce and Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce, I ask that you pass this bill and remove the restriction on Tweed's runway length and on our region's economic potential. Regularly, I speak with businesses, and they tell me that transportation is critical to their success in the New Haven region.

The ability to bring people to New Haven and efficiently travel to other locations would greatly improve if Tweed New Haven Airport had additional flights and destinations. It is our expectation that expanding the runway from 5600 feet to 6600 feet, within the airport's existing footprint, will open the door for new commercial service at Tweed.

Tweed's location, just minutes from downtown New Haven, provides a unique opportunity to improve mobility. As you know, business is conducted on a global scale. The New Haven region is home to thriving manufacturers, biotech companies, tech startups, and other important businesses. These companies have employees that travel regularly and customers and suppliers who need to visit.

Among the companies and organizations that are supportive of removing the restriction are: Avangrid, Alexion, Arts Council of Greater New Haven, Arvinas, ASSA ABLOY, Biorez, CA White, CT Bio, CT Tourism Coalition, DISTRICT New Haven, Ferguson & McGuire Insurance, Fitstyle by Shana, Marcum, My Language Link, New Haven Manufacturing Association, Prometheus Research, Radiall USA, Inc., Regional Water Authority, Technolutions, The Outtrim Group, Ulbrich Stainless Steels and Special Metals, and Yale New Haven Health. This is just a sampling of organizations that want a better Tweed. As you can see, this issue cuts across industry and size.

The Chamber and its membership are committed to economic growth in our region. 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 support economic growth in the Greater New Haven region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garrett Sheehan", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Garrett Sheehan
President & CEO