

Comments to the Transportation Committee

HB 7143 An Act Concerning the Length of Runway 2-20 At Tweed New Haven Airport

The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority is a nonprofit, public corporation and political subdivision of the State of Connecticut. Our mission is to provide our customers with high-quality water at a reasonable cost while promoting the preservation of watershed land and aquifers. We provide approximately 45 million gallons of water a day to some 430,000 consumers in 15 cities and towns in the Greater New Haven region. The source of this water is a system of watershed and aquifer areas that cover about 120 square miles within 24 municipalities. Much of our 27,000 acres of land is managed for watershed protection, timber resource conservation, wildlife habitat, open space, education and research.

Senator Leone, Representative Lemar, Vice Chairs, Ranking Members and other distinguished members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on **HB 7143 An Act Concerning The Length Of Runway 2-20 At Tweed New Haven Airport**.

The Regional Water Authority (RWA) is supporting the 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.

Tweed New Haven Airport is a critical economic asset in our region. As a partner with the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, the RWA seeks to assist in encouraging the strong economic future of New Haven and surrounding communities. We are proud to provide high-quality, affordable and reliable water service to thousands of businesses, nonprofits and families in south central Connecticut. Water is a precious resource needed to sustain life and growth in our region, and the RWA is eager to assist in ensuring the region's business community can continue to grow and thrive along with the families who live there.

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 continued economic growth in the Greater New Haven region.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill. If you have additional questions, please contact Lori Vitagliano, Government and Public Relations Specialist, at 203-401-2720 or by email at lvitagliano@rwater.com.