



421 Aviation Way
Frederick, MD 21701

T. 202-737-7950
F. 202-273-7951

www.aopa.org

25 February 2019

Transportation Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2300
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: AOPA support of H.7143, An act to eliminate the length restriction on Runway 2 – 20 at the Tweed-New Haven (HVN) Airport.

Dear Co Chairs Senator Leone, Representative Lemar, and esteemed members of the Committee,

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is the world's largest aviation organization, representing the general aviation interests of nearly 330,000 members across the country, including 3,324 members in the state of Connecticut. On behalf of these members, **AOPA supports House Bill 7143, to eliminate the length restriction on Runway 2-20 at Tweed-New Haven (HVN) Airport.**

Flight operations are the life blood of general aviation airports and runways serve as their lungs. The greater the size and number of a given airport's runways increases that airports utility and capacity thereby enhancing the potential for attracting a broader range or type of flight operations. With enhanced potential, an airport improves its ability to generate revenue. This is a key factor in any airport's ability, particularly as a municipally owned asset, to remain self-sufficient.

General aviation airports should be viewed similarly to other transportation assets and operated as a business. Regular investment in airport infrastructure is necessary to remain compliant with federal and state standards. Strategic investment in revenue generating development such as runways is often necessary to diversify revenue sources and to achieve self-sufficiency. Removal of the statutory limitation on the Tweed-New Haven Airport's Runway 2 – 20 is a necessary action that will return full control of the airport's property to the local Authority charged with its management and oversight. This action will serve as an important step toward future development of the Tweed-New Haven (HVN) Airport whereby a runway extension would allow for increased operations, improved safety, and the operation of newer, more fuel-efficient aircraft. For these reasons, **AOPA supports H.7143.**

Thank you for consideration of our views on this matter. Please consider AOPA to be a resource on all matters impacting general aviation. For questions or concerns, please contact me directly at (301) 695-2090 or through email at sean.collins@aopa.org.

Sincerely,

Sean M. Collins, AOPA
Eastern Regional Manager