



Save the Sound[®]

Action for our region's environment.

March 16, 2023

Tweed Airport Authority
Via email
C/o Tom Rafter
trafter@flytweed.com

Re: Request for Extension of Time to Review and Comment on Draft Environmental Assessment for Tweed New Haven Airport

On behalf of Save the Sound and its members, I am requesting a 45-day extension of time to review and comment on the recently released draft EA for Tweed New Haven Airport. Upon inquiry, Cheryl Quaine from the FAA directed that any such requests should be sent to this email.

We believe that a 45-day extension of time fulfills the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act, *i.e.* to encourage and facilitate public participation in decisions that affect the quality of the environment and environmental justice. This additional time will allow Save the Sound, its members, and the community to fully understand and address the very extensive, important, and complex issues raised by the draft EA.

Save the Sound and the larger community are in need of additional time because the document is hundreds of pages long with large technical appendixes that have taken years to prepare. Given the significant interest from the surrounding neighborhoods and the substantial regional environmental and environmental justice issues, 45 days does not constitute sufficient time to provide meaningful input and comment. Indeed, in 2002, the FAA required an entire EIS for a less impactful runway expansion. Given this, FAA should ensure that there is at very least a sufficient comment period to adequately allow for input and analysis as to whether a full EIS is needed in this instance.

This project is (1) highly controversial in that it has been the subject of litigation for over fifty years, (2) proximate, and impactful, to residential environmental justice neighborhoods, (2) located largely within a floodplain, (3) highly impactful of inland and tidal wetlands, and (4) highly impactful to local and migratory wildlife. By way of example, while the proposal is an airport expansion, it claims to have a beneficial air quality impact on environmental justice neighborhoods because they project passengers to remain roughly constant and so flights would *decrease* due to larger planes. This is despite the fact that Tweed New Haven Airport is also seeking thousands of additional parking spaces for *increased* passengers and the expansion would reasonably foreseeably allow for more freight flights. Regardless of the end result, these environmental justice communities and others deserve a meaningful opportunity to review,

understand and comment upon the potential reasonably foreseeable impacts and the extent to which they have been adequately addressed before it is too late.

Thank you for your time and attention to this request.

Sincerely,

/s/ Roger Reynolds

Roger Reynolds, Esq.

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