

****For Immediate Release****

Town of East Haven
Mayor's Office
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May 20, 2008

The Town of East Haven has succeeded in an early phase of a lawsuit recently filed by the Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority seeking to prevent the Town and its land use agencies from having any role in the work associated with the construction of Runway Safety Areas for the main North-South Runway.

Today a federal judge denied the Airport Authority's request to issue an emergency order immediately preventing the Town Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission from issuing any Cease and Desist Orders with respect to work at the South end of the Runway.

In February that Town Commission issued such a Cease and Desist Order to stop work which had been started by the Airport Authority near the South end of the Runway. After an agreed sixty (60) day cooling off period the Airport Authority filed the lawsuit claiming that federal and State law precluded the Town, the Town Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission, the Town Flood and Erosion Control Board and the Town Planning and Zoning Commission from having any control over work associated with the Runway Safety Areas.

The request for an emergency order addressed only the power of the Town Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission because the other Town agencies had not yet issued any Cease and Desist Orders.

Judge Janet C. Hall received numerous supporting legal papers and held a hearing on May 5. In a telephone conference today she ruled that the Airport Authority failed to demonstrate it would be "irreparably harmed" by the delay, but she did schedule a prompt trial of the entire lawsuit to begin August 25, 2008.

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