

May 7, 2015

Mr. Larry Cantwell
Supervisor
Town of East Hampton
159 Pantigo Road
East Hampton, NY 11937

RE: May 7, 2015 Public Hearing

Dear Supervisor Cantwell:

The National Air Transportation Association (NATA), on behalf of its member companies operating at East Hampton Airport (HTO), urges the Town Board to reconsider and repeal its recently approved restrictions on the use of the airport. The imposition and structure of the restrictions will have a detrimental impact on HTO-based aviation businesses and others operating into the airport and will result in reduced local revenues, investment, and job loss.

NATA represents a broad array of aviation service businesses essential to a vibrant general aviation sector. Our member companies provide fuel, on-demand air charter, aircraft rental, storage, flight training, aircraft maintenance, parts sales, line support, airline baggage handling, services as well as business aircraft and fractional ownership fleet management. NATA members range in size from large companies with international presence to smaller, single-location operators that depend exclusively on general aviation for their livelihood. NATA member companies are located at or operate into HTO.

As the East Hampton Town Board prepares for the upcoming public hearing, NATA reminds the Council the recently approved restrictions undermine the long-term utility of the airport and will result in years of costly litigation. While NATA understands the concerns that have led to the development of these restrictions, and the general aviation (GA) community shares the town's desire to maintain a clean and quiet community of beaches and surrounding protected lands, the restrictions are nothing less than local job killers that are a serious violation of the federal regulations related to airport grant assurances.

As we have stated before, East Hampton Airport is part of a national system of airports, and the recently approved operational restrictions present a threat to the national air transportation system that transcends local communities. This is the primary reason why the FAA requires airports that have received federal funds to adhere to grant assurances requiring, among other things, access to all airports on reasonable conditions and without unjust discrimination. This is a critical element in the survival of our nation's system of airports and one the town can expect will be vigorously defended.

As the Board considers how to proceed, we ask you to consider these issues as well as the issues raised by other members of the general aviation community. It is critical that the Board reconsider its proposed action and develop alternatives that address local concerns without inhibiting use of the airport.

We appreciate your consideration of this matter and welcome the opportunity to further discuss the issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W. Deere', with a stylized, flowing script.

William R. Deere
Senior Vice President for Government and External Affairs
National Air Transportation Association

CC: Kathee Burke-Gonzalez, Councilwoman