

Statement: Cautiously Optimistic about Stewart Airport Acquisition by the Port Authority

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"With air travel on the rise across the country, I am pleased that the Port Authority is looking ahead to ensure that Teterboro Airport gets relief from its already crowded skies and the noise and safety concerns that come with air traffic. Stewart Airport has the capability and the desire to handle significantly more operations than it currently does. As a result, Stewart could potentially divert traffic away from Teterboro Airport, as well as Newark, JFK, and LaGuardia. For these reasons, I am cautiously optimistic that this acquisition could help reduce the negative impact on the quality of life that the thousands of people who live near Teterboro Airport continue to be bombarded with.

"The Port Authority has assured me that reducing flights at Teterboro is one of their goals with Stewart Airport. However, there is a slight possibility that by loading up Stewart Airport and drawing in even more air traffic, the Port Authority could inadvertently increase traffic at both airports and increase the number of planes flying over residents' homes. While I am hopeful that will not happen, I will nevertheless watch this development very carefully to ensure that the interests of Teterboro residents are protected.

"Finally, I will also continue my fight to eliminate the loudest jets at the airport, enforce the curfew on flights, keep heavy planes from ever operating at the airport, and improve safety and security. The Teterboro Working Group's historic agreement on Teterboro Airport operations—which I helped broker—is a positive step toward bringing about these improvements."

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