

# Swift threatens college student with lawsuit

## College student posts Taylor Swift's private jet flight records

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Many celebrities are often quarreling with the public, the media, or each other, but recently Taylor Swift has had an unpleasant interaction with a student from the University of Central Florida. Jack Sweeney, the young man who was making social media posts about the public flight records of Swift's private jet, received a cease and desist letter in the mail from the singer's attorneys. They claimed that he was stalking and harassing her and said that if the activity did not stop, they would take legal action in order to end it.

Sweeney is a junior at the University of Central Florida who had previously run social media accounts dedicated to tracking the takeoff and landing of private aircraft owned by the wealthiest people both inside and outside the United States of America. Nothing about the data that Sweeney obtained was illegal. In fact, the Federal Aviation Administration makes the data from these aircraft publicly available. While it may not have been directly stated, Sweeney seemingly aimed to shed light on the massive carbon emissions of the one percent.

Swift's attorneys said that these accounts caused Swift and her family mental distress and physical discomfort. She explained that although Sweeney may have thought that it was a fun joke or clever use of resources for him, it was another reason to have her guard up at all times. She feared that

some people may be angry with the large amount of pollution that she was undeniably causing with the consistent private jet flights, and they might take action and attack her.

While Swift's fear for the safety of her and her family's life is no doubt substantiated, the fact that the flight records are public information may make it difficult to argue that Sweeney's posts were stalking or harassing her. However, her lawyers insist that they will take any legal action necessary to stop this harmful behavior and protect Swift and her family from any psychological and physical harm that Sweeney had directly or indirectly caused.

Celebrities are often forced to travel all over the country, and on occasion, across the globe, so it makes sense for Taylor Swift to use a private jet to quickly get from one place to another. No one has condemned Swift for owning or using her private jet, but there are some flights that will make a person question whether or not she really needed to use the jet. The most controversial flight Swift took was one that was highlighted in a post from one of Sweeney's accounts. Swift traveled just 28 miles from Cahokia, Illinois, to St. Louis, Missouri, and the flight time was only 13 minutes. If someone drove this distance, it would likely only take 30 to 45 minutes.

Critics were outraged to see such a poor use of re-

sources from Swift. While most people could understand flying from coast to coast, a 15 minute flight over a 45 minute drive, at the cost of many tons of carbon dioxide emissions, is questionable at best. A car produces around 400 grams of carbon dioxide per mile of driving, which would mean that a 28 mile drive would emit about 11.2 kilograms of polluting carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

habits.

Sweeney is dedicated to posting about these private jet and helicopter flight records and informing the public on the carbon emissions of the wealthy. This, however, is not the first time that he has been in hot water for posting the flight records of an American celebrity. In 2022, Sweeney's account was banned from Twitter when he continued to post the flight records of Elon

it. I do think there should be a way for celebrities to have privacy, though."

The ordeal caused a large debate about freedom of speech, especially on X. Musk took over the platform and planned to allow any and all speech, as he is a self-proclaimed free speech absolutist. When X caught word of the ban hammer reaching Sweeney, there was a massive uproar.

Ronald S Woon



**Taylor Swift dances** during a break in her live performance

However, a jet produces around twelve times as much carbon dioxide per mile at 4.9 kilograms per mile. This means that Swift's short flight emitted over 135 kilograms of carbon dioxide.

Senior Alex Loyd argues that "there really isn't anything Taylor could do to change her flight habits." He believes that Swift is just doing what she has to as a celebrity and that other celebrities have similar

Musk, the recently headed owner of the company. Musk claimed that this information being provided to so many users was a safety hazard for him, and he too attempted to take legal action against Sweeney.

Senior Kennedy Scudder said, "I think celebrities do deserve some privacy. I think that if something is public, though, there's really not anything you can do about

While the information is available to the public through the Federal Aviation Administration, the broadcast of the location and activity of a celebrity to millions of people may be a safety risk for those involved. On the other hand, climate change has clearly been a huge political focus in recent years and many people argue that the use of private aircraft should be limited for the sake of the Earth.