



MANAGED BY CENTERPLATE

February 13, 2009

To Members of the Appropriation Committee:

Arena at Harbor Yard, located in Bridgeport, has successfully hosted a number of premier men's and women's NCAA events. Both the Greater New Haven CVB and Coastal CT CVB have been essential to us in not only submitting bids for these collegiate tournaments but also organizing the hospitality programs to welcome the fans that attend. Their efforts help us to create the overall experience that organizers and fans expect; and this in turn help us secure the next event. These tournaments include the NCAA Men's Division I Frozen Four Hockey Regional, we'll host this March as well as the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Men's and Women's Basketball Championship we hosted in 2007 and will welcome again in 2011 and the NCAA Women's Division I Basketball 1st and 2nd Round and Regional Tournament games hosted in '04, '06 and '08. We continually bid on additional tournaments and rely on the assistance of both of these bureaus to help us secure the events.

We've welcomed nearly 90,000 fans to the tournaments we've hosted so far. The economic impact from these visits to our area contributes to the overall economy. We know these visitors eat at the area restaurants and spend money in the area. Plus, the teams and out of town media stay at the hotels and eat locally as well. When the fans are in for these tournaments, CVB staff members act as liaisons with the hotels to assure a positive experience for all of our visitors.

The two Convention & Visitors Bureaus that we work with are important business partners. Their efforts have a direct impact on these events. Their assistance is measurable and of great value to us in these efforts.

Sincerely,

Lynn Carlotto
General Manager