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February 24, 2011

Commerce Committee
Room 110, Capitol Building
Hartford, CT 06106

To: Members of the Commerce Committee

Re: SB 1022, An Act Establishing Tourism Marketing Funding

We are writing you today to offer the Middlesex Chamber's opposition to SB1022, *An Act Establishing Tourism Marketing Funding*. This proposal would raise the tax on a hotel stay in Connecticut from 12% to 15% at the worst possible time. The lodging industry in Connecticut has taken a severe hit in the past few years and we believe that tax is the wrong solution at the wrong time.

Our Chamber is on the record supporting funding for tourism initiatives in Middlesex County and in Connecticut. However, we do not believe that levying a tax on hotel stays to fund those initiatives is the answer.

We look forward to working with members of the General Assembly, the CT Lodging Association and other stakeholders to come up with a solution that works for everyone.

Again, the Middlesex Chamber opposes SB 1022. Thank you for the opportunity to get on the record.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Rich Carella in black ink.

Rich Carella
Co Chair
Legislative Committee
Middlesex Chamber

Handwritten signature of Rick Parmelee in black ink.

Rick Parmelee
Co Chair
Legislative Committee
Middlesex Chamber

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Awards: Governor's Laurel Award for Responsible Social Involvement, President's White House Citation for Private Sector Initiatives
U.S. Department of Labor LIFT America Award, Connecticut Small Business Advocate Award, Vision 2000 Excellence Award
NAACP Business Award