

Legislative Committee

February 22, 2013

Appropriations Committee
Room 2700, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Members of the Appropriations Committee:

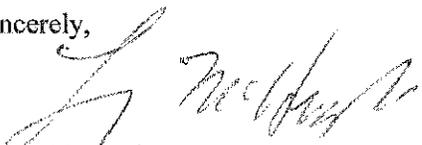
We are writing you today on behalf of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce. The Middlesex Chamber is a dynamic business organization with over 2400 members that employ over 50,000 people. The reason for our letter is to offer comment for the state budget public hearing process before the Appropriations Committee.

The Middlesex Chamber is an organization that has always been pro tourism and in fact has been a strong partner with the State of Connecticut on the marketing of tourism initiatives in Middlesex County and throughout the state. According to the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, \$11.5 billion is derived annually from travel and tourism activities in the State of Connecticut. Also, \$1.15 billion of state and local tax revenue is generated by travel and tourism. 110,000 jobs, or 6.5% of Connecticut's labor force, are supported by the tourism industry.

The \$15 million investment in tourism marketing proposed by the Governor is very important and we urge the Appropriations Committee to support its implementation. Marketing Connecticut's many tourist destinations brings more people into our state and those visitors spend money when they are here. This investment in tourism marketing supports jobs and tax revenues and promotes Connecticut in a positive way.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for the record.

Sincerely,



Larry McHugh
President
Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce



Jeff Pugliese
Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce