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Mcfwrf@aol.com  
Thursday, March 21, 2013 2:23 PM  
Kane, Brittany  
Public hearing, March 22

re: public hearing, March 22, 2013

ATTN: Appropriations Committee

I have served on the boards of our local tourism districts for more than twenty years and can attest to the fact that the local districts have been a vital means of attracting tourism dollars while supporting many local attractions. I never could understand why the State government wanted to eliminate this revenue source. At one time, Coastal Fairfield County was generating \$12 for every 1\$ spent. While an effort to market the state as an entirety may be laudable, a centralized state office of tourism can not provide the hands-on support to local museums, theaters, restaurants, etc. that is needed. A recent example is the fact that the ad for three major tourist attractions in Bridgeport was mistakenly placed in the New Haven section of the 2013 Official Visitors Guide. I encourage you to continue to fund the three remaining tourism districts.

Mary Ann C. Freeman, Easton