

Ed Dombroskas

**HB 5030 AN ACT MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO STATE EXPENDITURES FOR THE
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2015**

Senator Bye, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriation Committee, my name is Ed Dombroskas and I am the Executive Director of the Eastern Regional Tourism District which we market as "**Mystic Country**".

I am grateful that in the budget approved by the Appropriations Committee and the Governor last year funds were maintained for the statewide tourism and regional tourism marketing efforts. As an important Connecticut industry that creates jobs and stimulates economic activity by attracting out of state visitors who spend money in our attractions, hotels, restaurants and retail outlets we are wise to invest in it.

This year, the Governor's budget recommendations continue to support the statewide and regional tourism initiatives. With the support of the Appropriations Committee and the full Legislature we will be able to continue our partnership for the purpose of rebuilding our economy. The tourism industry, on a national basis, has recently reported that tourism jobs lost during the recent recession have now been fully recovered and are at the same employment level as existed in 2008. Even in our own state, which has not yet achieved full recovery, it must be noted that job growth in the travel and tourism sector has been vigorous and in many months has led in the number of jobs created.

Speaking of partnerships, I would like to make a point of mentioning that this year the State Office of Tourism and the Regions are making particular efforts to work cooperatively. By using our respective resources in synergy, tourism in Connecticut can and will continue to flourish.

Personally, I hope that I will see each of you this season in **Mystic Country**.