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March 2, 2013

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee,

As an active member of the Town of Kent, namely it's representative for the Western Connecticut Convention and Tourism Bureau, a board member on the Kent Historical Society and a member of the Kent Chamber of Commerce as well as owning a Kent based Art Gallery I am very concerned with the possible cuts that are currently being debated in Hartford. I refer to the House Bills that will have a direct impact on the regional tourism funding and the closing of the regional tourism offices. This would leave Connecticut as one of the few States in the Nation without a regional tourism district.

Because of its location and beauty, Connecticut is a prime destination for tourists visiting the State as well Connecticut residence exploring more of their own State.

The regional Tourism offices including the Western Connecticut Convention and Tourism Board provide a major service to these prospective tourists through marketing and communication that still provides a personal touch that with its loss will clearly have an impact on the inquisitive tourist and the information found. As I am sure you are aware a study that was commissioned by the State of Connecticut revealed that funding for local tourism is an investment that returns roughly \$7 for every \$1 invested.

In particular the North Western region has many small communities and towns similar to the town of Kent that have a huge dependence on tourism and visitors to the area. Here in Kent we have experienced the closing of many businesses though the impact of the recession and this will surely add another unnecessary blow to our community, its residence and business owners.

I appeal for you to vote against these cuts for the benefit of our communities, our State and clearly our businesses and jobs.

Sincerely,

Tim Good