Restaurant & Pub Brewery

February 11, 2016

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

We are writing to you on behalf of the Willimantic Brewing Company to ask you to continue to support the Eastern Regional Tourism District (ERTD). Governor Malloy's proposed budget cuts will dramatically reduce their funding if not eliminate it. We understand the need to address the deficit but do not let it be at the cost of the positive image of Willimantic and the positive economic development created by that image.

Willibrew's partnership with the ERTD/Mystic Country has afforded us the opportunity the get the word out about the business as well as Willimantic. We would not be able to take advantage of some opportunities without the financial support of Mystic Country. Willibrew and Willimantic have had the opportunity to be promoted through a variety of Mystic Country's projects – Food, Fairs and Festivals, Foodie Finds, Haunted History.

We work closely with Mystic Country to help promote our business, community events and our business neighbors to a much larger market than many of us would have access to or the financial resources to reach.

Please consider the long-term ramifications of compromising tourism in Connecticut.

Respectfully,

David Wollner
Owner/Brewer
Willimantic Brewing Co.

Karen Gilbransen
Marketing Coordinator
Willimantic Brewing Co.

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