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CENTRAL REGIONAL TOURISM DISTRICT SERVING

River Valley/CONNECTICUT

Greater New Haven/CONNECTICUT

I'm writing this letter out of concern for the budget meeting coming up this week. It is my understanding that more cuts are in place for tourism, and my fear is further loss of revenue for our state as a result of potential cuts.

This past Saturday evening I had three rooms booked at my Bed and Breakfast. Four of those people shopped at Highland Park during the day, CVS, and went to Three Figs for dinner. Two of them went to Tosca for dinner and bought some items at Moxy Boutique in town. HEADS IN THE BEDS means money in our town, no matter how you slice it. Additionally, each of those rooms generate a healthy room occupancy tax for the state.

I'm one of many small bed and breakfasts in the state, and no one really even knows that Connecticut is sprinkled with so many of us. Recently someone mentioned to me that she is getting married in the fall and is looking in VT and NH for a B and B venue to have her guests and her receptions. I asked why not CT since she is a state resident, and her reply was "are there bed and breakfasts in CT?" REALLY. I told her I would get information and forward it to her. Is this really MY JOB?

Anyone travelling from the south into New England first has to come through CT. We should be a grand foyer into the region, rather than a mud room. The state is not helping us to spread the word about tourism in our fabulous state. We have hundreds of attractions, but each of them and us has to fend for ourselves if there is no money or help from the state. We were told years ago that the reason for such a high room occupancy tax was to help out with tourism.

I beg you to help us be heard, seen, and occupied. If we have heads in OUR beds, you will have far more dollars being spent in the state.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Erickson

**Lorraine Erickson, Innkeeper
(and Board Member of the Central Regional Tourism District)**

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