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Commerce Committee
March 9, 2021
Zoom 10:00AM

In **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 430
An Act Concerning Regional Tourism Districts

Chairwoman Hartley, Chairwoman Simmons, and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee, I am here to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 430, *An Act Concerning Regional Tourism Districts*.

For the transcript, my name is Cathy Osten and I represent the 19th Senate District, which includes the towns of Columbia, Franklin, Hebron, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Marlborough, Montville, Norwich, and Sprague.

As you may know, the state of Connecticut has three regional tourism districts, each governed by a board of directors, composed of one representative from each municipality within the district. It has become increasingly difficult, especially for some small towns, to find interested volunteers to appoint to serve on these boards. In the case of the Eastern Connecticut Regional Tourism District, the board of directors was unable to meet regularly due to a lack of a quorum in recent years.

The change called for in Senate Bill 430 would greatly benefit these boards and their operations. Permitting two or more municipalities the flexibility to jointly appoint one representative will enable boards to meet more frequently and transact official business.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 430. I look forward to working with the leadership and members of this committee on this bill's passage.