

Connecticut Historical Society
museum & library

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February 9, 2021

The Honorable Matthew Ritter
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Representative Ritter,

I am writing to you to ask for your support of bill number HB 6119, An Act Concerning Arts, Culture, and Tourism Funding that will greatly affect the Arts and Culture community.

Supporting HB 6119, An Act Concerning Arts, Culture, and Tourism Funding will result in the following:

- Increase the allocation of the Hotel Occupancy tax to 25%
- Provide more funding to arts and cultural organizations that drive cultural tourism
- Target income from the Hotel Occupancy tax to Arts and Cultural activities instead of the general fund

Cultural Heritage tourists often stay longer and spend more money than other tourists do. In fact, one study showed that a culture and heritage tourist spent as much as 38% higher per day and they stayed 22% longer overall compared to other kinds of travelers. Arts and cultural organizations drive tourism, retain local dollars, and attract new dollars to main streets and downtown districts. This bill will support Connecticut's arts & cultural organizations which in turn bring tourism dollars to the state.

This issue is vitally important for myself as a leader of a cultural organization. I have lived in other parts of the country and in my two years in Connecticut, I have been very impressed at the scope, breadth, and overall high quality of cultural organizations across the state. I think the arts and cultural community is an untapped economic resource that deserves additional investment from the state.

I urge you to act on this issue in order to make a substantial impact on the Arts and Culture sector in the state. The sector is a critical part of the state's economy and provides enriching programs in our communities.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Kret
CEO