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## Legislative Committee

February 11, 2021

Commerce Committee  
State Capitol Building, Room 504  
Hartford, CT 06106

Members of the Commerce Committee:

The Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce is a dynamic business organization with over 2,175 members. Our chamber represents businesses of all sizes and from all industry sectors, from large corporations, to micro businesses and entrepreneurs, and we are committed to promoting a positive business climate in Middlesex County. In addition to being an effective business organization, our chamber strives to be a strong community organization. We run a number of events and programs that support workforce development, youth development, substance abuse prevention, our veterans, and much more.

### **The purpose of this letter today is to offer the chamber's support for H.B. 6119, AN ACT CONCERNING ARTS, CULTURE AND TOURISM FUNDING.**

It is no secret that the tourism industry, a vital sector in Middlesex County and throughout our state, has been hit hard by the pandemic. This bill aims to strengthen the arts, culture, and tourism sector in Connecticut by directing additional funds into the Tourism Fund.

Middlesex County is proud to be home to many outstanding tourist attractions. Tourism is one of our most important industry sectors, and we must make sure that it makes a strong comeback in what we hope is a rapidly approaching post pandemic world.

In our 2021 Public Policy Agenda, the chamber urged the General Assembly to support policies that encourage and promote tourism. This bill accomplishes just that, and we encourage the committee to advance it in the legislative process.

Tourism is a proven economic driver, and it must be protected.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this important bill.

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*Awards: Governor's Laurel Award for Responsible Social Involvement—President's White House Citation for Private Sector Initiatives  
U.S. Department of Labor LIFT America Award—Connecticut Small Business Advocate Award—Vision 2000 Excellence Award—NAACP Business Award*