



February 18, 2021

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

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Justin Gargano and I am the founder & CEO of Thimble Island Brewing Company located in Branford, CT. I am writing this testimony in support H.B. 6119- An Act Concerning Arts, Culture and Tourism Funding and to encourage the Commerce Committee to pass and support the initiative.

Thimble Island Brewing Company is one of the growing number of breweries in CT that attract visitors to our great state every year. We bring in visitors that in turn bring business to our neighbors, like restaurants and hotels. In addition, we are growing businesses and have a direct impact on the state's revenues. In fact, more than 116 operational breweries in CT employ over 6,500 people and contribute more than \$753 million to the state's economy as reported by the CT Brewers Guild.

Our CT breweries have been among the hardest hit by restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 Pandemic. We need your help to ensure appropriate funding for tourism, so that we may continue to thrive here in CT. According to the CT Tourism Coalition, for every dollar the State spends promoting Tourism they receive back at least THREE dollars in additional Tax revenues.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Justin Gargano
Founder & Chief Executive Officer
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