



February 18, 2021

Dear Senator Catherine Osten and Representative Tony Walker,

My name is Stephen Tagliatela, and I am the President of the CT Tourism Coalition, which is an organization that represents over 140 Tourism businesses, attractions, Art and Culture venues, State Trade Associations, and businesses that support the Tourism Industry across the State of CT.

I am writing in support of H.B. 6119- An Act Concerning Arts, Culture and Tourism Funding and encourage the Commerce Committee to pass and support the initiative. Covid has had a huge impact on the Tourism sector, and we need help from the State to restore our businesses, and be able to compete with our neighboring states, that are maintaining their current funding and, in some cases, increasing their budgets.

Funding Tourism creates jobs, provides the state of CT with additional tax revenues, and improves the QUALITY of life for both the people who live and visit CT. For every dollar the State spends promoting Tourism they receive back at least THREE dollars in additional Tax revenues. Fifteen Million would return to the State 45 million in the same fiscal year. When you think about it, this is a no brainer.

We need your help and support and encourage you to pass and support H. B. -6119.

Sincerely,

Stephen Tagliatela

President

CT Tourism Coalition