



Westerly, RI Economic Development Commission

Douglas Brockway
Chair – Westerly RI EDC
45 Broad Street
Westerly, RI 02891
March 21, 2024

Louise D. Bishop
President
South County Tourism Council
4160 Old Post Road
Charlestown, RI 02813

Ms. Bishop and To Whom It May Concern -

I am writing to let you know that on March 20 the Westerly EDC unanimously voted its support of House Bill 7688 and Senate Bill 2343, "An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Tourism and Development, section 42-63,1-3."

We understand the history behind the bill and how in the mid-1990's some of the hospitality taxes collected in South County were allocated to Providence. Since then, the hotel and convention capacities in Providence have improved far beyond the need for assistance from South County.

In the interim South County has experienced significant change with five-star accommodations like the Ocean House and the Weekapaug Inn. In Westerly, and across South County, much progress is being made in off-season tourism. The arts environment anchored by The United Theatre in Westerly and the Atlantis Rising Sand Sculpting Competition are but two examples.

We believe current policy is no longer appropriate and that the hotel taxes collected here should be applied here in South County. The Westerly EDC supports 7688 and 2343.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas Brockway". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Douglas Brockway
Westerly EDC

Cc: Dylan LaPietra – Town Council Liaison
Shawn Lacey – Town Manager
Aidan Adams – Principal Planner