

Chris O'Brien

From: Jessica Willi <jessica@blockislandinfo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 2:32 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Testimony in Support of House Bill 5476

Categories: Yellow category

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,
Good Afternoon.

I write today to voice support for House Bill 5476, which you will be hearing testimony for on May 1st. Unfortunately, I cannot get off of Block Island to join you this year in person.

It is time to close the loophole on the Hotel Tax, and apply it to all accommodations equally. As visitors who stay in all forms of accommodations receive the benefits from that Hotel Tax, but the tax is currently only being collected from visitors staying in traditional hotels.

The Block Island Tourism Council is 95% funded by a portion of the Hotel Tax, and our programming and Destination Management extend to the benefit of all Visitors as well as all Businesses.

I fully support House Bill 5476.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Jessica Willi

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