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CHIEF OF STAFF

TOWN OF CUMBERLAND

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Jeffrey J. Mutter



Sarah King
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Hon. Louis DiPalma
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: In Support of S2664 and S2814

Dear Chair DiPalma and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I write in support of S2664 and S2814, legislation that would establish a dedicated public art fund and reallocate a portion of the state's hotel tax revenue to better support tourism and economic development initiatives throughout Rhode Island.

As Mayor of Cumberland, I understand the important role tourism, arts, recreation, and cultural investment play in strengthening local. Cumberland is home to significant historical, cultural, and natural assets, including the Blackstone River Valley, Diamond Hill State Park, and a growing network of community events and recreational opportunities that attract residents and visitors alike. Strategic investments in tourism and placemaking help communities like ours continue to grow while preserving the character and history that make Rhode Island unique.

This legislation represents an opportunity to support a more balanced and inclusive statewide tourism strategy. By directing additional resources toward tourism development, arts initiatives, and community-based experiences, Rhode Island can better position municipalities of all sizes to participate in and benefit from the state's tourism economy. Investments in public art, cultural programming, and destination development not only attract visitors, but also support small businesses, encourage private investment, and improve quality of life for residents.

Cumberland has consistently supported efforts that promote thoughtful economic development, regional collaboration, and responsible stewardship of public resources. We believe S2664 and S2814 provide a meaningful framework for strengthening tourism and cultural investment while ensuring that communities throughout Rhode Island have the opportunity to share in that success.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued service to the residents of Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jeff Mutter