



POCONO MOUNTAINS

VISITORS BUREAU

Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau Advocacy Priorities for 2016

LOCAL ISSUES

Lodging Taxes/Transactional Fees

The PMVB opposes the imposition of additional lodging taxes and/or transactional fees by county or municipalities on the hospitality industry.

Paying Their Fair Share

The PMVB supports efforts to ensure that all entities that rent rooms to visitors for 30 days or less are collecting and remitting state and local lodging taxes.

Post Labor Day School Opening

PMVB supports a Post Labor Day School opening, and appreciates local decision making at the individual school board level. Understanding that the Labor Day holiday falls on September 5th in 2016 we strongly suggest that school opens no earlier than August 29th.

Rules and Regulations That Obstruct Hospitality Industry

PMVB asks local units of government not to establish rules and regulations that serve as an unfair burden on the operation and growth of the hospitality industry.

STATE ISSUES

Revisions to Current County Code 1770.2 and 1770.6

The PMVB urges the Legislature to adopt the provision currently contained within HB794. A taskforce representing CCAP, PRLA, and PATT have been working on this bill for more than a year and agreed on the specifics. It is the PMVB understanding that this bill will be introduced in the Senate early in the 2015 session.

Call for a Review of Rules and Regulations That Obstruct Hospitality Industry

PMVB urges our legislators to review current rules and regulations established by the legislature that serve as an unfair burden on the operation and growth of the hospitality industry. We further encourage the legislature to repeal such restrictive regulations which will then allow for the hospitality industry to increase their employment and help grow the Commonwealth's economy.

Establishment and Appropriately Fund a Pennsylvania Tourism Partnership

PMVB supports the establishment of the Pennsylvania Tourism Partnership and encourages the Legislature to find an appropriate funding source. We are prepared to work with the Administration and Legislative leaders to offer solutions and find ways to create a new and more efficient model for state tourism promotion. Now is the time to create a sustainable public-private partnership outside of state government.

Culinary/Tourism Jobs on High Priority Occupation List

The PMVB and partners in the Pocono Workforce Investment Board will continue to petition the PA State Department of Labor to include culinary positions and other hospitality jobs that meet the family sustaining wage criteria to be listed on the High Priority List for Pennsylvania. Our success in garnering region HPO of "Sales Representative" can and should improve future efforts.

FEDERAL ISSUES

Rules and Regulations That Obstruct Hospitality Industry

Concern is being expressed with regards to the Administrations interest in establishing through rule and regulations actions that serve as unfair burdens on the operations of hospitality businesses and that would have the untended consequences of reducing employment growth.

Employee Free Choice Act (Card Check)

PMVB stands in opposition to the currently proposed EFCA (Card Check) Legislation. AHLA is fighting to protect employee's rights including the right to join unions through a fair and secret private ballot election process.

OTA

The PMVB opposes the "Internet Travel Tax Fairness Act" which would prohibit the imposition of room taxes on transactions performed through Online Travel Companies. The PMVB joins with PTLA and DMAI to protect state and county taxing authorities' collection of room tax revenues from online travel companies.

Congressional Tourism Caucus

Encourage Congressman Barletta, Marino, and Cartwright to continue to participate in caucus.

PMVB works closely with PATT, PRLA, NTA, AHLA, US Travel and DMAI on advocacy efforts and legislation that impacts the tourism industry.

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