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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Thomas Tangretti *Tom*

DATE: February 29, 2008

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of legislation: Tourist Promotion Law

As Chairman of the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee, I encourage you to join me in co-sponsoring legislation that will ultimately secure a more equitable way of dispersing state funds to support tourism in Pennsylvania. This bill repeals the old Tourist Promotion Law, Act 50 of 1961, and replaces it with language that reflects decades of change in Pennsylvania's tourism industry.

Basically, the law as it was designed 47 years ago *must be updated* before this year's budget is enacted or Tourist Promotion Agencies across the state will face a significant loss in "Matching Funds" grant money. This bill, a result of months of negotiations with DCED's State Tourism Office and the Pennsylvania Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus, will merge two existing budget line items and secure a portion of those funds to be held for local marketing purposes. The new language will create a collaborative effort between the administration and tourism stakeholders to develop guidelines to award grants and provide more accountability for the Regional Marketing portion of the fund.

I feel strongly that this legislation strikes a sensible balance between all parties and I look forward to your support. If you have questions regarding this bill, please contact my Executive Director, Angela Stalnecker, at 783-1023 or astalnec@pahouse.net for further clarification.

If you would like to co-sponsor this important legislation, please call my office at 783-1023 or email ssnell@pahouse.net **as soon as possible!** It is my intent to introduce the bill on the morning of Friday, March 7, so please do not delay in offering your support! Thank you for your attention to this matter.