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& SMALL BUSINESS
CONSUMER PROTECTION
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
HIGHER EDUCATION

**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



RICH FUNKE
Senator, 55TH District

February 8, 2016

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Ms. Jill Delaney, President and CEO
New York State Tourism Industry Association
1 Grove Street, Suite 200
Pittsford, NY 14534

Dear Ms. Delaney,

I want to thank you for taking the time to visit me in Albany and bring me up to speed on all your organization is doing to promote New York State through Tourism, while also sharing how I can best help your industry in my new role as Chairman of the NYS Senate Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation. I look forward to working together to further support the best parts of our state while bringing people from across the country and the world to see all that we have to offer here. One of the first things I plan to get up and running is something I'm calling "Tourism Thursday's" where I use my social media accounts to share video of events that are taking place in my district that weekend, while also providing information on events around New York for those that may be traveling to other parts of the state.

As you know, we are currently working on negotiating the 2016-17 budget. As my colleagues and I work to its completion, my priority is to ensure that we can increase the Tourism Matching Grant Fund to \$5 million, to support our arts and cultural institutions through NYSCA grants, as well as increase Historic Preservation Funding through the EPF all while fighting any added restrictions to our restaurant, hotel and small businesses which are vital to the success of tourism in this state.

I see my role as Chairman as an opportunity to promote a variety of events, festivals, competitions, cultural centers and parks throughout the State of New York. Many hear of the problems New York has in order to keep and support our businesses, but I see this as an opportunity to tell people all the reasons they should come visit and stay in New York because of the many amazing things we have to offer.



I hope that as I begin this journey I am able to visit and meet the many people who work in this State's 4th largest industry! Please contact my office if you have any upcoming events I might advertise, or if you have materials my office can help disseminate.

Thanks for your support!

Rich Funke

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rich Funke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

55th Senate District

Chairman, Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation Committee