



Dear<<State Legislator representing Sussex>>,

On behalf of Southern Delaware Tourism (SDT), the Convention and Visitors Bureau for Sussex County Delaware, and its Board of Directors, I am requesting your help and assistance on our efforts to manage and monitor state funds being collected and distributed via Delaware's Public Accommodations Tax (PAT).

As you are aware, Delaware's Tourism Industry is fueled by the PAT and Southern Delaware Tourism, along with Sussex County Government and the chambers of commerce serving communities in Sussex, rely on its portion of the PAT reinvestment for tourism promotion and services. Recently, there have been inconsistencies and errors in PAT reporting from the Delaware Division of Revenue. These inconsistencies have led to significant financial impacts to our county chambers of commerce, resulting in unexpected deficits, operational shifts, and leaving us to question realized revenue. We feel that there needs to be better communication and enhanced reporting from the Delaware Division of Revenue to accurately track the collection of this tax and its reinvestment distributions.

This matter is even more paramount now as the state is preparing to include short-term rentals in the PAT process starting January 1, 2025. We feel strongly that the Division of Revenue have all needed resources in place to effectively manage this process. Southern Delaware Tourism's operations depend on it to effectively serve our mission and grow Sussex County's \$2.7 billion economy. **We are requesting your presence at a Zoom meeting on October 31 from 10am to 11am to further discuss. Please let me know if you can join.**

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Scott Thomas
Executive Director
Southern Delaware Tourism