



LET'S FOCUS OUR ADVOCACY EFFORTS FOR THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION!

I hope everybody is having a great summer and that you're having a prosperous tourism season for your businesses. So far July has been very hot and I'm sure our beaches have been filled with both in-state and out-of-state visitors enjoying our beautiful coastal communities, restaurants and attractions. As mentioned in the last newsletter, we are all disappointed in the budget outcome from the last Legislative session as funding for both the Roadmap and America's 250th fell short of expectations despite all of our advocacy efforts and relentless time spent educating our leaders on the economic impact and return on investment for tourism. We remain committed to lobbying for both of these important initiatives and improving the tourism industry in Connecticut moving forward.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to lobby for these efforts by directing our attention to the 2025 legislative session. One of the many challenges faced in the last session was the legislature maintaining their previous 2023 budget. Since the budget was not reopened, our opportunities to champion the tourism cause were minimal, making it difficult to secure new funding opportunities. However, as we head into a new biennium, I am encouraged by the opportunities that come with a new budget and a longer session. This "fresh start" provides a unique chance to revisit and advance many of our tourism goals from the previous session. I am optimistic that the extended session and new budget will enable us to make significant progress in securing the necessary support and resources for our initiatives. With renewed determination, I look forward to the potential achievements and advancements in the 2025 legislative session. I am confident that we can bring our vision for the tourism sector to fruition.

As we gear up for the Fall, please share your concerns and disappointment with our legislators and continue to push for the investment we desperately need for adequate Statewide tourism marketing. It takes all of us to collectively make our voices heard and I'm counting on everyone to reach out to our leaders!

I am happy that our State Welcome Centers are open and that the state is distributing tourism collateral at all of those locations. I am also eager to see the totally remodeled Connecticut Pavilion at the Big E which promises to be a spectacular display!

As always, I am forever grateful to our officers, board and membership for their commitment and support as we move through the second half of summer. As always, our Executive Director Frank Burns, with support from Christine Dagata, continues to show great leadership in advocacy as he meets with legislative and industry leaders from around the entire State. I look forward to working with all of you as we continue to make our collective voices heard. Stay safe, healthy and have a great rest of the summer!

Paul Mayer



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

About the Madison Chamber of Commerce

Membership Benefits

The Madison Chamber of Commerce supports the businesses, nonprofits and residents of Madison, Connecticut. We offer a variety of services to our members, including business development, networking opportunities, and marketing assistance. We also promote Madison as a great place to live, work, and visit. [Contact us](#) to learn more about becoming a business member of the Chamber and how we can help you.

Networking Opportunities:

Meet and build relationships with business owners from Madison and surrounding towns at our monthly networking events.

Political Action:

When we are aware of issues that may affect the best interest of the businesses in our community, the Madison Chamber of Commerce will act on their behalf. Member surveys are regularly taken to assure that the Board of Directors focuses on members' most important concerns.

Communications:

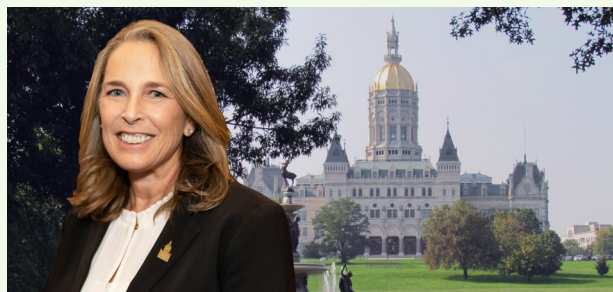
Communication between members is cultivated with monthly ChamberConnect meetings (at 8:30am) monthly Business With a Twist Events, and weekly emailed newsletters.

Public Affairs:

Our Public Affairs activities recognize our youth with scholarships, help us contribute to town beautification, and participate in a variety of local activities. The Chamber's Holiday Parade in December brings the entire community together at a special time of year.



TOURISM CHAMPION:



State Representative ROBIN COMEY

Proudly Serving Branford

State Representative Robin Comey was elected in 2018 to serve the residents of Connecticut's 102nd House District in Branford. For the 2024 legislative session, Rep. Comey was appointed Assistant Majority Whip and a member of the Committee on Children, the Education, and the Human Services Committees.

Widely lauded for her constituent services, Comey was praised for her assistance throughout the pandemic. An effective representative for her constituents, she successfully led the fight to require the driver's license test to be offered in an additional 26 languages to help Branford's large Nepali community and the newly resettled refugee population in our state.

Rep. Comey has been advocating for more than a decade for policies that protect children with life-threatening food allergies. She has led the passage of a state-wide stock-epinephrine law, restaurant allergy safety and training, and comprehensive food allergy policies for schools and in childcare programs.

Comey has been instrumental in securing funds for her community, including vital grants for the Branford Counseling and Community Services and the Branford Housing Authority Parkside II affordable housing project. Additionally, she has championed funding for BH Care, a provider of essential behavioral health services, and has successfully advocated for more Education Cost Sharing dollars to support local schools. Her efforts have also led to funding for Short Beach Traffic Calming, which will enhance the safety and livability of the neighborhood.

Rep. Comey, serving as Co-Chair of the Early Childhood Caucus, is leading the efforts to build a robust early care framework to support Connecticut's families.

