

2016 Legislative

Roundtable Reception

Cooperstown

Friday, May 6, 2016

8:30 - 10 a.m.

Otesaga Resort Hotel

co-sponsored by:

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Cooperstown Legislative Roundtable

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Otesaga Resort Hotel

60 Lake Street, Cooperstown, NY 13326

8:30 - 10 a.m.

Program

8:30 a.m.

Registration & Breakfast

9:15 - 10 a.m.

Welcome:

Introduction of State & Local Leaders

Presentation of State Issues

Mark Dorr, *Vice President, NYS Hospitality & Tourism Association*

Presentation of Local Issues

James Miles, *General Manager, Otesaga Resort Hotel*

Roundtable Discussion with State and Local Elected Officials

Sponsors

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New York State Hospitality & Tourism Association

The New York State Hospitality & Tourism Association (NYSH&TA) is a not-for-profit trade organization representing nearly 1,000 lodging properties, totaling over 122,000 guest rooms, or 70% of total guest room inventory in the state. NYSH&TA's membership is also comprised of approximately 50 parks and attractions, over 100 industry suppliers, and more than 100 cooperating organizations, tourism educators, students and individuals combined. Founded in Saratoga Springs in 1887, NYSH&TA's mission is to lead and protect the New York State hospitality and tourism industry by providing **advocacy, education, and resources**. The Association provides: representation and advocacy on behalf of the industry before state lawmakers and regulatory agencies; resources in the form of money-saving programs, networking opportunities and marketing exposure via the website; educational offerings that help members best serve their customers.

Illegal Hotels – Leveling the Playing Field

The short-term online rental market—in which individuals rent out rooms, apartments, or entire homes to overnight guests—poses a threat to consumers, neighborhoods and businesses. In response to the growing trend of companies, like Airbnb, promoting illegal owner-occupied hotels within the state, the state's lodging industry is looking to provide a statutory solution in New York to limit and potentially prohibit their impact on the legal hospitality industry.

NYSH&TA suggests reasonable changes or modifications should be made to existing laws or implemented independently, because travelers and communities deserve the proper safeguards that protect them from the potential dangers and risks posed by the short-term online industry. NYSH&TA continues to work with government to develop legislation that would combat these unregulated short-term rentals within New York by requiring compliance with state and local hotel laws. Last fall, in conjunction with the Senate, NYSH&TA held a series of informal roundtables to gather information from the industry on ideas, thoughts and solutions as to best address and advance state legislation during the 2016 Legislative Session.

In 2010, the State Legislature enacted stricter fire safety standards for Class B or transient use dwellings for hotels only in New York City. NYSH&TA continues to support not only the New York City hotels, but the City of New York in both its efforts to enforce the law and its efforts to eliminate illegal hotels while doing so practically, allowing well-established legal hotels to convert their certificates of occupancy and remain in compliance.

Minimum Wage

The state budget includes an increase in the minimum wage. The schedule is as follows:

- For workers in New York City employed by businesses with at least 11 employees, the minimum wage would rise to \$11 at the end of 2016, then another \$2 each year after, reaching \$15 on 12/31/2018.
- For workers in New York City employed by businesses with 10 employees or fewer, the minimum wage would rise to \$10.50 by the end of 2016, then another \$1.50 each year after, reaching \$15 on 12/31/2019.
- For workers in Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester Counties, the minimum wage would increase to \$10 at the end of 2016, then \$1 each year after, reaching \$15 on 12/31/2021.
- For workers in the rest of the state, the minimum wage would increase to \$9.70 at the end of 2016, then another .70 each year after until reaching \$12.50 on 12/31/2020 – after which will continue to increase on an indexed schedule to be set by the Director of the Division of Budget in consultation with the Department of Labor.

Beginning in 2019, the state DOB Director will conduct an annual analysis of the economy in each region and the effect of the minimum wage increases statewide to determine whether a temporary suspension of the scheduled increases is necessary. That analysis is submitted to the Department of Labor by the Division of Budget.

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Tourism Funding

Given its proven track record as a revenue source for state and local governments, and as a job generator, Tourism is not only a wise investment, but a critical one that yields unmatched and well sustained returns for New York's economy. To that end, The Governor has called for an unprecedented \$50M be spent on tourism promotion in the coming year. The 2016-2017 State Budget, funds the following direct spending for tourism:

- **I Love NY / Matching Grant Program:** The 2016-2017 State Budget maintained funding (2015-2016) for both the I Love NY program (\$2.5M), and the Matching Grants program (\$4.315M). Further, the welcome centers in Binghamton and Beekmantown were funded at their historical levels of \$196,000 each.
- **Market NY:** The State will make available \$13 million in new competitive funding to be provided through the Department of Economic Development (DED) to support winning tourism marketing plans that best demonstrate regional collaboration among counties to promote regional attractions. We are in the process of gathering information on the additional \$8 million that was made available under Market NY in the State Budget.
- **Taste-NY:** The State will make another \$1.1 million available for the Taste-NY initiative, which is designed to promote locally grown or produced food products, beer, wine and spirits or other New York-made goods through a two-part strategy that combines development of retail venues with aggressive marketing and branding. In high traffic rest areas, train stations and airports across New York, the State will establish "Taste-NY"-branded retail stores, carts, and next-generation luxury vending machines to sell predominantly New York State products free of all sales tax to the consumer.

Paid Family Leave

The 2016-2017 State Budget includes a paid family leave program. When fully phased-in, employees will be eligible for 12 weeks of paid family leave when caring for an infant, a family member with a serious health condition or to relieve family pressures when someone is called to active military service. Benefits will be phased-in beginning in 2018 at 50 percent of an employee's average weekly wage, capped to 50 percent of the statewide average weekly wage, and fully implemented in 2021 at 67 percent of their average weekly wage, capped to 67 percent of the statewide average weekly wage. This program will be funded entirely through a payroll deduction on employees. Employees are eligible to participate after having worked for their employer for six months.

Special Thanks to The Otesaga Resort Hotel for Supporting the Breakfast Buffet



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(Cooperstown/Otsego County Tourism)**

Issues:

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Affordable Housing

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Marketing Corporation For Otsego County



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