



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Assistant Secretary for Legislative
and Intergovernmental Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20230

July 29, 2002

The Honorable Mark Foley
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Foley:

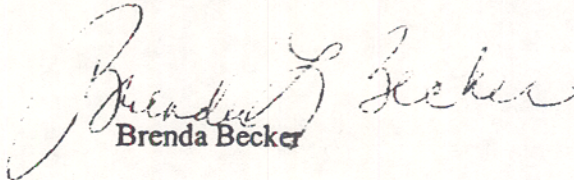
You requested our views on your proposed legislation, entitled the "American Travel Promotion Act of 2001," which would authorize the Secretary of Commerce to make grants to States for advertising that stimulates economic activity by promoting travel and tourism.

The Department of Commerce fully supports your legislation to promote travel and tourism and thereby strengthen the U.S. economy, and we applaud your efforts to accomplish these ends. The Department supports an authorization of \$10 million to initiate a pilot program in approximately five states to promote travel and tourism in the United States.

As your legislation notes, the travel and tourism industry was adversely affected by the events of September 11, 2001. In response, the Administration has made numerous efforts to promote the economic recovery of affected travel and tourism related businesses, and your legislation is clearly consistent with these efforts. We look forward to working with you on the implementation of the pilot program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation. We would be happy to work with you in addressing any other issues to achieve our shared interest of promoting U.S. tourism. Please feel free to contact me at (202) 482-3663, to discuss these matters further.

Sincerely,


Brenda Becker