

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000
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April 22, 2014

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter Welch
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Reps. Bilirakis and Welch:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, thanks you for introducing H.R. 4450, the "Travel Promotion, Enhancement, and Modernization Act."

H.R. 4450 would strengthen the United States' position in the global travel and tourism market by reauthorizing Brand USA, a vital public-private partnership that promotes international travel to the U.S. and at no cost to taxpayers. Since it began operations in 2011, Brand USA has been a successful driver of increased travel and tourism to the U.S., supporting millions of jobs and creating economic growth. In fact, Brand USA's activities resulted in a \$7.4 billion impact on the U.S. economy in fiscal year 2013 according to an Oxford Economics study.

The travel and tourism industry is an important piece of the overall U.S. economy, and Brand USA strengthens that sector by encouraging millions of international visitors to come to the U.S., who spend billions of dollars in our economy. The Chamber thanks you for introducing this important bill and looks forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten