



2012 PROCLAMATION

Whereas travel matters to the nation's economic prosperity and its image abroad, to business wealth and to individual travelers;

Whereas travel to and within the United States provides significant economic benefits for the nation, generating \$1.8 trillion in economic output in 2010, with \$759 billion spent directly by travelers that spurred an additional \$1 trillion in other industries;

Whereas travel is among the largest private-sector employers in the United States, supporting 14.1 million jobs in 2010, including 7.4 million directly in the travel industry and 6.7 million in other industries;

Whereas travelers' spending directly generated tax revenues of \$117 billion for federal, state and local governments, funds used to support essential services and programs;

Whereas

- The travel and tourism industry directly employed more than 160 people in Chatham County
- Total payroll generated by the tourism industry in Chatham County was \$3.03 million
- State tax revenue generated in Chatham County totaled \$1.59 million
- Approximately \$480,000 in local sales and property tax revenue were generated by tourism businesses, equivalent to \$32.41 in taxes per county resident;

Whereas international travel to the United States is the nation's largest single export industry – greater than the export of business services, machinery, computer and electronic products, motor vehicles and agriculture. In 2010, travel accounted for eight percent of total U.S. domestic exports, creating \$134 billion in sales from abroad;

Whereas leisure travel, which accounts for more than three-quarters of all trips taken in the United States, spurs countless benefits to travelers' creativity, cultural awareness, education, happiness, productivity, relationships and wellness;

Whereas travel is a catalyst that moves the national economy forward;

Now, therefore, I, [Official's Name and Title] do hereby proclaim May 5-13, 2012 as Travel and Tourism Week in Chatham County, and urge the citizens of Chatham County to join me in this special observance.

Chair, Board of Commissioners

[AFFIX SEAL]