



Lee Alexakos
Six Flags Entertainment Corporation
Senate Finance Committee
5/28/2025

Chairman Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 96 and specifically, proposed amendment SC 0197.

My name is Lee Alexakos, and I represent the Six Flags Entertainment Corporation which includes our flagship park Cedar Point on the shores of Lake Erie and the largest tourist attraction in Erie County. Cedar Point is one of Ohio's most iconic and largest tourism destinations attracting millions of visitors each year. Cedar Point has proudly called this region home for more than 150 years and remains committed to investing in its future.

In the last decade alone, Cedar Point has made over \$400 million in capital investment in the Shores & Islands Ohio region. These investments were made with the full expectation that a strong, effective, and professionally run destination marketing organization would be in place to help attract and retain visitors, support local businesses, and grow the tourism economy.

Amendment SC 0197 threatens to undermine that foundation. By allowing counties to redirect lodging tax dollars without clear local collaboration or transparency, it destabilizes the very structure that has fueled tourism growth in this region and across the state.

Cedar Point and many of our partners—from large resorts to small family-owned businesses—depend on the efforts of Shores & Islands Ohio to keep our region competitive and compelling to millions of visitors annually. That includes robust marketing, visitor services, and strategic partnerships that extend well beyond county lines.

When we promote Shores & Islands Ohio, we are promoting Ohio. And when tourism succeeds here, it reflects positively on Ohio as a whole. That progress is now at risk.

I urge you to oppose SC 0197 and instead advocate for a transparent, locally driven and collaborative process that includes those of us who have invested so deeply in this region's future. Together, we can ensure continued momentum and prosperity for all stakeholders.