

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



## **THE CARIBBEAN HOTEL & TOURISM ASSOCIATION (CHTA) APPLAUDS PUBLIC-PRIVATE SECTOR WINS AT MID-YEAR REVIEW**

*Ongoing advocacy delivers results across taxation, trade, airlift and renewable energy policies*

**FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (June 9, 2025)** – As the Caribbean tourism sector approaches mid-year, the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) highlights the following major advocacy achievements through strategic public-private partnerships across the region:

### **Tax Reform Reversal in the Dominican Republic**

CHTA supported the Dominican Republic's hotel association (ASONAHORES) in opposing a proposed Tax Reform Bill that would have eliminated longstanding tax incentives critical to the growth and development of the tourism sector. These incentives have historically played a key role in attracting investment, upgrading infrastructure, and expanding existing hotels. By providing data-driven insights and bilingual communications support, the associations helped ensure the bill was withdrawn—an example of effective, collaborative governance in action.

### **Caribbean Exempted from U.S. Port Fees**

Working with the CARICOM Private Sector Organization and regional shipping stakeholders, CHTA advocated for exemption from proposed U.S. port fees and tariffs on China-built ships, protecting regional trade and travel while maintaining vital mutually beneficial trade ties with the U.S.

### **Renewable Energy Reform Urged in New Report**

In partnership with the Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism (CAST), CHTA released a new report, "Empowering the Caribbean Tourism Industry through Renewable Energy," urging swift policy reforms to accelerate clean energy adoption. The report identifies key regional barriers including red tape, lack of financing, and outdated utility policies, and offers actionable recommendations.

### **Momentum on Intra-Caribbean Airlift**

CHTA has long championed reducing taxes on intra-regional air travel to boost connectivity. Recent action by the governments of Barbados and Saint Lucia to lower air taxes this summer is a positive first step, and CHTA has encouraged other governments to follow suit to further strengthen intra-Caribbean travel and tourism.

### **New Policy Repository Supports Smarter Advocacy**

CHTA, in collaboration with Tourism Analytics, has created a new regional policy repository covering taxation, sustainability, labor, investment incentives and alternative accommodations. Previewed at the recent Caribbean Travel Forum in Antigua, this repository will serve as a valuable tool for informed advocacy and collaboration.

"These wins reflect the power of unified, informed action," said CHTA President Sanovnik Destang. "We proudly stand with our partners across the region to shape a stronger, more sustainable Caribbean tourism sector."

For more information on CHTA's ongoing advocacy initiatives, please visit  
<https://caribbeanhotelandtourism.com/commitment-initiatives/advocacy/>

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### **About the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA)**

The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) is the Caribbean's leading association representing the interests of national hotel and tourism associations. For more than 60 years, CHTA has been the backbone of the Caribbean hospitality industry. Working with some 1,000 hotel and allied members, and 32 National Hotel Associations, CHTA is shaping the Caribbean's future and helping members to grow their businesses. Whether helping to navigate critical issues in sales and marketing, sustainability, legislative issues, emerging technologies, climate change, data and intelligence or, looking for avenues and ideas to better market and manage businesses, CHTA is helping members on issues which matter most.

### **Media Contact:**

Claire Kunzman / [claire@anythingbutadvertising.com](mailto:claire@anythingbutadvertising.com) / +1 407 227 8867