

For Immediate Release - May 12, 2009

"Travel Matters" Boston & Massachusetts Celebrate Economic Impact of Tourism U.S. Travel Rally Day: Tuesday May 12, 2009: Boston Hotel, Tour, & Attraction Tourism Icons Gather for Salute Visitors have \$7.5 Billion Impact on Region

BOSTON - The Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau was joined by Boston Duck Tours, The Freedom Trail Foundation, The Shops at Prudential, Fairmont Copley Plaza, Fairmont Battery Wharf, The Ritz-Carlton, Boston Common; Sheraton Boston Hotel, Cambridge Office for Tourism, and the Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism on the official Boston Red Sox Duck Tour vehicle "Red Sox Nathan" to kick off the summer visitor season today and to demonstrate their support for travel and its importance to state and local economies.

"The combined spending at hotels, restaurants, museums and shops by visitors to Boston and Cambridge generates \$7.5 Billion for our region's economy," said Patrick B. Moscaritolo, President & CEO, Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau.

"The visitor industry also employs more than 80,000 people across our region. The bottom line is travel really does matter for our economy. The Boston and Massachusetts visitor industry has worked very hard to attract millions of visitors this summer from all over the world that will leave their dollars, euros and pounds behind in purchases and tax revenue," Moscaritolo added.

Travel Industry Fun Facts Did You Know that travel and tourism is a \$1.6 trillion industry in the United States? If one dollar bill equaled a second of time, then \$1.6 trillion would equal almost 51,000 years.

Did You Know that travel and tourism generates \$110 billion in tax revenue for local, state and federal governments? If you place 110 billion one dollar bills end-to-end, they would circle the world 419 times.

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