



*\*Formerly the  
Wisconsin Innkeepers  
Association*

Serving the lodging  
industry for more  
than 100 years

## *STATEMENT*

### **Room Tax Information Deemed Confidential**

*June 1, 2011*

Within Wisconsin Statute 66.0615 there is a clause requiring municipalities that collect room tax to provide for the confidentiality of certain information obtained.

Apparently there is some confusion within some municipalities on what information should be considered confidential, and what information should be public.

The purpose of this clause in the statutes is to protect lodging property owners and operators from having the amount of room tax they have submitted become public, as this financial data reflects their business status to competitors. Thus, the Wisconsin Hotel & Lodging Association (WH&LA) supports the confidentiality of the room tax collection amounts submitted by each property.

However, releasing solely the names of all lodging properties that collect and submit room tax does not need to be kept confidential, and in fact provides an additional and reasonable system of checks and balances that can help ensure that all lodging properties in the jurisdiction are participating as required by law. The municipality as well as the lodging properties in the jurisdiction should be united in their concern that room tax obligations are fairly and universally imposed.

It is our interpretation that preventing the release of a simple roster of lodging properties that are submitting local room tax may be over-reaching the information that needs to be confidentially protected for business reasons within the room tax statute.

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