

STATEMENT OF R. DANIEL MUSSER III,
PRESIDENT, GRAND HOTEL, MACKINAC ISLAND, MI
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE PROTECTIONS
MARCH 14, 2013

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee, I appreciate your invitation to testify today about the critical need for a foreign temporary, seasonal H-2B worker program for Grand Hotel and other seasonal businesses throughout the U.S. My name is Dan Musser, I am President of Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, Michigan. I am the third generation of my family to own and operate this historic, seasonal, 385-room summer resort. This is the 80th year that the hotel has been under our stewardship and on July 10, 2012 we celebrated our 125th birthday.

Grand Hotel is known nationally and internationally as the world's largest summer hotel. We are known for the beauty of our location on Mackinac Island, for our dramatic 660-foot front porch and, more importantly, for our friendly and unique hospitality.

Our exceptional service is widely recognized by many national rating guides; I have attached a brief listing of recent awards that reflect our commitment to quality.

To give just a few examples:

- The April 2008 issue of National Geographic Traveler selected us as one of 150 properties in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean Region with location inspired architecture, ambiance, and amenities, eco-stewardship, and an ethic of giving back to the community.
- *Travel & Leisure* magazine annually lists us as one of the 500 best hotels in the world and their readers selected us as one of the top 50 family friendly resorts in the U.S. and Canada.
- *Condé Nast Traveler* rated us one of the top 100 resorts in the United States and the number 4 northern resort in their list of top 125 golf resorts in the United States.
- In honor of our anniversary, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder proclaimed July 8-14 Grand Hotel week in the state of Michigan noting our designation as a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Department of Interior and the "world-class hospitality" the Musser family and Grand Hotel has provided over the past 125 years.

Grand Hotel is the largest employer of U.S. workers on Mackinac Island. We employ 60 U.S. workers annually on a year round basis and 260 on a seasonal basis. For many decades, Grand Hotel's entire staff was U.S. workers. Increasing opportunities for year-round hospitality workers and other factors have made it impossible to fill all of our positions with ready, willing, and able American workers. Without the H-2B seasonal temporary workers we employ to supplement our U.S. work force, we eventually would not be in business.

Since Grand Hotel first opened in 1887, it has been a continuing challenge to find a stable, dependable work force to fill the 620 jobs required to maintain the high level of service for which we are known. The fact we are open only six months, our isolated location 300 miles north of Detroit, and other factors make it difficult to develop a work force needed to provide Grand Hotel level hospitality.

Operating year round is not an option. We are a seasonal summer hotel. There is no good way to get to our island in the winter and very little to do there if you were able to get across the frozen lake.

We are and always have been committed to staffing Grand Hotel with U.S. workers. Each year we take a number of steps to recruit U.S. workers for Grand Hotel.

- We run ads in major papers in Michigan and the Great Lakes region.
- We advertise in seasonal resort areas that dovetail with ours such as ski resorts in Colorado and Utah and warm weather resorts such as Florida and Arizona.
- We attend as many job fairs in as many colleges and universities in Michigan and the Great Lakes region as we can.
- We visit culinary institutions around the country.
- We attend Michigan Works job fairs.
- We list jobs on major Internet sites.
- We promote on major media outlets in Michigan (radio, print, electronics)
- We have partnered with Job Corps Centers in Flint, Grand Rapids and Detroit, Michigan and Golconda, Illinois.

We are able to hire some college students, but increased opportunities for summer educational and enrichment activities for college students has reduced the pool of available students. Further, most college students' school schedules preclude them from remaining with us for the entire season, which runs from April through mid-November.

We have also tried several innovative programs. We created a service academy through which we worked with the Michigan Employment Security Commission to find unemployed Michigan Citizens who expressed an interest in the hospitality field. We provided employment for the summer and rotated them through different departments in the Hotel during the course of the season. They also received college-level classroom instruction provided by the Educational Institute of the American Hotel and Lodging Association.

At the end of the season, they received accreditation from the Institute, a guaranteed job the next summer with us, and with the State's assistance found winter jobs at various resorts in Colorado, Utah, Arizona and Florida. Unfortunately for us, those resorts offered year-round employment. We found that after we had provided them an education and experience in the hospitality industry and then found positions for them with other resorts in other parts of the country that offered year-round employment, we had virtually no returning graduates.

We even tried a program where we recruited workers from homeless shelters in metropolitan areas in southern Michigan. That was not successful.

We had a somewhat successful program with the State with individuals with certain limited physical and mental disabilities. We hired a qualified full-time supervisor specially trained to work with and live with these individuals to ensure integration to our working community. In recent years, the State's role has diminished in this regard and, therefore, our program as well. I am pleased to say that our program enabled six of these individuals to become capable of living on their own and several worked with us for over 20 years.

While these programs have not provided us with the work force we need, we continue and will continue to do everything in our power to find, recruit and retain as many U.S. workers as possible. In the meantime, the quality of service we provide requires that we supplement our professional, trained and dependable U.S. work force.

For many years, we recruited workers from Florida. But as Florida turned into a year round vacation destination, those workers no longer were available. The situation was particularly critical in the hotel dining room, which is a key part of hotel operations.

About 40 years ago, Grand Hotel began to look to foreign workers to fill positions for which we could not, despite extensive efforts, find U.S. workers. Our H-2B workers come from several different countries. Many of these workers hold seasonal hospitality jobs in their home countries. For example, the Jamaican tourist season dovetails perfectly with ours and Jamaica is an important source of H-2B workers for us. Some of them return year after year to Grand Hotel because of the pay and working conditions we offer to all staff, both domestic and foreign. In 2012, of the 280 H-2B staff that worked with us, approximately 250 or 90% were returning staff.

Under federal law, our wage rates are approved by both the Michigan Employment Security Commission and the U.S. Department of Labor. Our wage rates are based on Detroit-area wages.

We provide a variety of housing in communities on the island that we subsidize for all staff. Most are single rooms; some with private baths; some with shared baths with one other room and some dormitory style. We are proud of the condition of our employee housing. In the past 3 years, we have spent in excess of \$1.1 million on improvements. In addition to housing, we also provide three meals a day in our employee cafeteria. It is important to note that our H-2B workers enjoy workers compensation, just as our American workers. We also assist our U.S. and H-2B workers in many ways. For example, in September of 1988, Hurricane Gilbert caused \$4 billion of damages to homes and crops in Jamaica. It is estimated that 80% of the homes on the Island lost their roofs. Several staff members returned to Jamaica early to take care of their property and family and also report back to staff members who stayed on Mackinac. Grand Hotel gathered food and supplies and sent a trailer of these supplies to Jamaica to assist with the clean up.

In November of 2006, shortly after returning home to Jamaica, 11 year Waiter Garfield Slowly was seriously injured in an automobile accident and his child was killed in the same accident. News of the tragedy traveled quickly to Mackinac and Grand Hotel partnered with the Mackinac Island Community Foundation to provide monetary help and medical supplies. \$19,500 in aid was sent to support Garfield and his family over a 4-year period. This is one of many partnerships with the Mackinac Island Community Foundation. My wife, Marlee, was on the founding Board of Trustees for the Foundation and I still serve on the Board. Grand Hotel provides office space free of charge and also paid the Directors salary and benefits for 15 years. The Foundation is a resource for all staff, U.S. and H-2B workers, and provides financial assistance for medical and family emergencies, natural disasters and serious illness.

Grand Hotel makes special efforts to help its workers in other ways. Each year, all staff is allowed to order bulk food items and cleaning supplies through the hotel at a great discount.

These items are shipped within the U.S. or to their home countries and used to support their extended families for the entire year. At the beginning of each season, clothing donations are accepted from staff and Mackinac Island residents and redistributed to the staff coming to work in April. Much of our staff comes from a climate where warm clothing and boots are not readily accessible. This program has provided our staff with free clothing and boots for the past 8 years.

Grand Hotel also conducts activities to celebrate our multicultural staff. Each year we recognize Mexican, Jamaican and Filipino Independence Days through activities in our Employee Cafeteria and through the entertainment offered in our outside restaurants. We also help to sponsor football, soccer and cricket matches for the staff to participate in and challenge each other. The staff appreciates the recognition and everyone appreciates the opportunity to learn more about the culture and customs of their co-workers.

We are one of 70 northern Michigan resorts and hotels that utilize temporary, seasonal foreign workers on H-2B visas for specific jobs. Our workforce during the summer is made up of our U.S. workers and 300 or so temporary foreign workers. Our American jobs depend on our H-2B workers. It would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for us to continue to operate successfully without H-2B workers – they are the lifeblood of our seasonal business.

The potential closure of Grand Hotel would have a devastating impact on Mackinac Island, Northern Michigan and the tourist industry in general.

Some relevant facts to consider are:

- Grand Hotel has reinvested in excess of \$32 million in the past 15 years on capital expenditures. All construction was performed by Michigan contractors.
- During the past 15 years, an additional \$25 million was spent on normal and major repairs to the Hotel's properties.
- On average, 600 individuals are employed at the Hotel each year, with an annual payroll in excess of \$14 million.
- Grand Hotel spends in excess of \$1.4 million annually for State and Federal unemployment and FICA taxes.
- The Hotel spends in excess of \$1.4 million annually in Michigan for professional services such as advertising, accounting and other outside services.

Grand Hotel is not much different from the thousands of small and seasonal businesses throughout the U.S. who have been forced to turn to the H-2B program as a result of a lack of available Americans willing and able to work in temporary seasonal positions. And it is not just the hotel and resort industry that needs these workers.

Nearly every corner of the country uses seasonal temporary workers. The industries include:

- Seafood processors, shrimpers, crabbers, and fishermen throughout the Gulf, Carolinas, Alaska, Northwest and Mid-Atlantic states;
- Hotels, restaurants, ski resorts and other important tourist destinations throughout New England, the Mid-West and the Rockies;
- Quarries from New England to Colorado;

- National Parks, including Grand Canyon, Sequoia, Yosemite and others;
- Forest industry in New England and the Southeast;
- Theme parks and swimming pools in virtually every state; and
- Landscapers and landscape contractors across America.

Each year these employers go through great expense and trouble to follow the law. The H-2B process consists of applications to four separate Government agencies (State Workforce Agency, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Department of State), legal fees, Government filing fees and many other expenses. Employers pay wages at levels that have been certified by the U.S. Government to be high enough so that they will not adversely affect the wages of similarly employed Americans. Employers are obligated to pay transportation expenses to and from the property (according to DOL guidance), and they must comply with the myriad rules and regulations that govern the worksite of U.S. and foreign workers alike.

For seasonal employers, the H-2B returning worker exemption worked well. Employers still willingly searched high and low for every American they could find. But when they could not find Americans, the fact that they could turn to workers who have worked for them in the past ensured that they could stay in business. Most importantly, since returning workers had already undergone extensive background security checks (and have to undergo similar checks each time they apply to enter the U.S.), employers could feel confident that they have helped protect the security of our homeland. Moreover, in deciding to return to work with the same seasonal employer, these H-2B workers signaled that they were pleased with their working conditions and the wages they were paid. The returning worker exemption was one of those rare “win-win-win-win” situations: a win for workers (American and foreign); a win for employers; a win for the United States of America; and a win for the communities we serve. The returning worker exemption from the annual cap on H-2B visas should be re-instated.

Like all businesses, Grand Hotel suffered during the recent recession. Our recovery has been threatened by the recent U.S. Department of Labor rules on H-2B wage rates and new H-2B programmatic rules. Fortunately, Congress and the federal courts have so far blocked implementation of these rules, but the uncertainty about whether and when the H-2B visa program could be dramatically changed by Administration action creates an untenable climate for business planning.

Grand Hotel did not comment on the Department of Labor (DOL) proposed wage rule issued on October 5, 2010. Although the proposed rule was of concern to us, we determined that we could survive with the new rule. DOL issued the final rule on January 19, 2011. It artificially increases H-2B hourly wages by more than 50%. For many seasonal employers who operate on thin profit margins, such a dramatic increase in labor costs will drive them out of business or into bankruptcy. This rule was slated to go into effect last year, but DOL moved the implementation date to March 27, 2013 after Congress prohibited DOL from spending any appropriations funding to implement the rule.

According to DOL’s own estimates, the rule will increase H-2B wages by the following:

- Landscaping services, \$4.32;

- Janitorial services, \$5.81;
- Food services and drinking places, \$2.59;
- Amusement, gambling, and recreation, \$6.61;
- Construction, \$9.12; and
- Forestry support, \$1.23.

The actual cost to H-2B users is far greater than DOL's estimates because DOL does not account for labor increases for similarly employed American workers or more experienced American workers whose pay should reflect the greater skill or experience level and be proportional to the hourly wage earned by lesser skilled workers. It also does not include additional payroll costs, workers compensation insurance, overtime costs and other associated increases.

On February 21, 2012, DOL issued a final H-2B program rule that would make the H-2B program more complicated for small seasonal employers. The combination of the H-2B wage rule and the H-2B program rule will make the H-2B program virtually unusable for many seasonal businesses. The rules are based on the mistaken assumption that the H-2B program is fraught with abuse. While this is not the case, DOL and the Department of Homeland Security already have significant authority to enforce against any employers that are not meeting their obligations to their H-2B and U.S. workers. The DOL is currently enjoined by a federal court from implementing the program rule.

I will highlight a few of the provisions in the Department of Labor programmatic rule that are particularly burdensome:

- Additional Recruitment Time

Increasing the amount of time during which U.S. workers must be recruited from ten (10) days before filing the ETA-9142 to twenty-one (21) days before the H-2B employer's need for the worker, is too short.

The end of the recruitment period must leave more time to shift from the use of human resources manpower hours for recruitment and compliance with H-2B rules to the use of manpower hours to actually open the business. Typically, Grand Hotel's goal in recruiting H-2B workers (to supplement the employment of the U.S. workers we are able to recruit to fill various positions in our organization including housekeepers, wait staff, kitchen helpers, and bellhops) is to have the majority of recruitment completed by March 1. Our plan is to have workers begin to arrive at the Hotel on April 1. The Hotel opens on May 1. We need time between completion of the long and expensive hiring and recruitment process and the arrival of staff to begin the operational side of our business, that is, to prepare training plans, housing, uniforms, and scheduling. Our guests expect to experience Grand Hotel's high level of service on our opening day.

- Areas of Substantial Unemployment Definition

An ASU is defined in the rules as "a contiguous area with a population of at least 10,000 in which there is an average unemployment rate equal to or exceeding 6.5% for the twelve (12) months preceding the determination of such areas made by the ETA." We believe that the

benchmark for an ASU, for purposes of requiring additional recruitment, should not be based on the annual unemployment rate, but the timeframe of need. For example, Grand Hotel is located in Mackinac County, which has an annual unemployment rate of 11.5%, but this is to be expected in a summer vacation area when during the summer months the unemployment rate for all but one month is lower than the national average as delineated below:

Annual-2012	11.5%
January	23%
February	23.5%
March	21.6%
April	14.1%
May	6.1%
June	4.5%
July	4.2%
August	3.8%
September	3.6%
October	4.3%
November	11.9%
December	17.9%

We also believe that the ASU threshold should not be an arbitrary figure of 6.5%, but should be based on the national employment rate, which is currently 7.7%.

- Additional Recruitment Required for an ASU is Unreasonable and may be Counterproductive

The DOL's regulation would require employers to engage in additional recruitment activities, including but not limited to contacting community-based organizations in ASUs to ensure that unemployed U.S. workers, who may be capable of (and desirous of) performing the job duties, are afforded maximum access to those opportunities, is unreasonable in many circumstances and based on faulty logic. The DOL's intention of requiring additional recruitment is predicated on its belief that more recruitment will result in more opportunities for U.S. workers.

It is our view that this position is based on faulty reasoning because many employers, including Grand Hotel, already conduct significant recruitment far above that which is required under previous DOL regulations, and which has absolutely not resulted in the hiring of additional U.S. workers, even during the last few years of increased nation-wide unemployment. The requirement by the DOL to have employers conduct additional recruitment if employers are located in an ASU, could actually result in employers conducting only the DOL-ordered additional recruitment, which might actually result in the placement of fewer advertisements. Grand Hotel is located in an ASU, but because we are committed to hiring as many U.S. workers as possible, we are already placing many more advertisements than could be required by the DOL under its rules.

For example, in 2012, Grand Hotel conducted the following recruitment in order to find staff in the U.S. for our available positions:

Advertisements

Lansing State Journal
Detroit News
Detroit Free Press
Grand Rapids Press
Sault Evening News
St. Ignace News
Mackinac Island Town Crier
Traverse City Record Eagle
Petoskey News Review

Job Fairs (to which Grand Hotel sends recruiters)

Michigan State University
Northwestern Michigan College
Northern Michigan University

Advertisements in the following College Areas

Grand Rapids Community College
Henry Ford Community College
Schoolcraft College
Northwood University
Kent State University

Electronic Media

Craig's List
Monster.com

Michigan Talent Bank also known as Pure Michigan Talent Connect (which is used by Grand Hotel throughout the 7 month period during which the hotel is in operation, which in turns makes referrals from local Michigan employment offices in St. Ignace and Cheboygan)

Grand Hotel Website found at www.grandhotel.com (on which job openings are listed year round. When the website became operational, the number of applications jumped from 600 to 1,600, and did not result in the hiring of more U.S. workers who could work the entire contract period.)

Other Recruitment

At various seasonal resorts in Utah, Colorado and Florida
Cheboygan & Presque Isle Annual Job Fair hosted by Michigan Works
Gerald R. Ford, Flint, Detroit, and Golconda Job Corps Center
Ubuntu Institute (founded by Nelson Mandela's grandson)

We are very excited about our new relationship with the Outbound Programme of the Ubuntu Institute. The Outbound programme is designed for youth and adults from Southern Africa (SADC) and provides internships, learnerships, and training opportunities for unemployed graduates from disadvantaged communities in Southern Africa for a period of 6-12 months. The programme is largely focused on Tourism and Hospitality, one of the fastest growing economic sectors in most Southern African countries. The participants of this programme, referred to as "Ubuntu Institute fellows" travel to the United States and Canada to gain work experience at some of the most distinguished companies in the world. We have not yet been approved for Ubuntu Institute Fellows for this season and we are hopeful some of these Fellows will be joining us on Mackinac Island this summer.

As a result of our sustained recruitment efforts in 2012, we received 1,665 applications from U.S. workers for various positions at the Hotel, including but not limited to the positions for which we sought H-2B workers, and of these 1,665 applications, only 358 or 21% were available for our full season.

Finally, we believe that permitting the DOL to require employers to contact community-based organizations based on a determination that a particular employer is located in an ASU places an undue burden on the DOL, which would have to become familiar with the area's community-based organizations. This might result in hasty and un-researched determinations by the DOL, and ultimately will not result in the net hiring of additional U.S. workers. Grand Hotel is familiar with community-based organizations on the Island and in surrounding areas, including St. Ignace, Mackinaw City and Cheboygan, and advertisements with and referrals from those organizations have not proven to be very fruitful. In addition, the rule gives the DOL far too much discretion in supplanting its wisdom for the wisdom of an employer that has been in existence in Mackinac County for over 120 years and which fully understands the local labor market.

Recommendations for Comprehensive Immigration Reform:

- Comprehensive immigration reform must maintain a viable non-agricultural seasonal worker program along the lines of the existing H-2B program.
- The program should maintain current protections for American and H-2B workers and not impose costly burdensome requirements on employers who use the H-2B program. The federal government should enforce existing protections.
- The number of participants in the program should be market-based, so it can fluctuate based on need, and the returning worker exemption should be re-instated. Returning workers have demonstrated that they will comply with the rules of the program. The number of workers desiring to return confirms that most employers treat their H-2B workers fairly.
- The current H-2B requirement that an H-2B worker cannot leave a sponsoring employer until the successor employer's USCIS petition has been approved should be maintained. Sponsorship of an H-2B worker is a costly and time-consuming process for a short season. H-2B employers should not be vulnerable to losing a worker the day before the date of need.

- Immigration reform should provide sufficient resources for federal agencies to process H-2B applications in a timely manner.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Grand Hotel Recent Awards

AAA Four Diamond Rating

Rated by a AAA field inspector as an excellent property displaying a high level of service and hospitality.

The Greatest Hotels in the World

Travel & Leisure Magazine, January 2011 - The annual guide to the 500 best hotels in the world. The list contains the hotels that received the highest rating in the Travel & Leisure reader survey along with opinions and advice of its editors and reporters.

Top 100 Readers' Choice Award

Condé Nast Traveler, November 2011 - Voted by readers as one of the top 100 resorts in the United States.

World's Best Awards

Travel & Leisure Magazine, August 2011 - Voted by readers as an essential index of the places you want to go in the United States and Canada.

Top 125 Golf Resorts

Condé Nast Traveler, April 2011 - Chosen by thousands of readers as a property that marries outstanding golf with fantastic lodging, dining, and service for the avid or casual golfer. Grand Hotel was ranked 4th in the top northern U.S. golf resorts category.

Silver Sage Award

Spa Magazine, 2011 Readers Choice – Selected by readers as one of the top resort/hotel spas in the Midwest.

TripAdvisor 4.0 Rating

July 2011 – Grand Hotel received the 2011 Certificate of Excellence from TripAdvisor acknowledging the most powerful recommendation – the endorsement of guests.

Gold Key Award

Meetings & Conventions Magazine, September 2010 - Selected by readers of M&C who based their votes on overall professionalism and quality of property. Experienced meeting planners selected their winning properties based on strict industry criteria including staff attitude, quality of meeting rooms, quality of guest service, food and beverage service, and recreational facilities.

10 Best All-Inclusive Family Resorts

FamilyVacationCritic.com - Selected number four in the U.S. and Caribbean in a September, 2010 rating based on setting, activities, food, and overall experience for families.

T+L World's Best Hotels For Families

Travel & Leisure Family Magazine, September 2011 - Selected by readers as one of the 50 best family-friendly resorts in the United States and Canada.

Best of MidAmerica

Meetings Focus MidAmerica, August 2012 - Selected by readers of Meetings Focus MidAmerica magazine as one of the top properties in the Midwestern United States.

Stay List

National Geographic Traveler, April 2008 - Nominated by travel experts and seasoned travelers and then selected as one of 150 properties in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean Region with location-inspired architecture, ambience, and amenities, eco-stewardship, and an ethic of giving back to the community.

Top 10 Historic Hotels

June 2009 - Selected by AAA property inspectors as one of their favorite historic hotels.

Award of Excellence

Wine Spectator, August 2010 - Recommended as a restaurant where a fascinating wine experience is part of the dining experience. Wine lists are judged by the number of selections, quality of wines chosen, depth of vintages, compatibility with the restaurant menu, inventory, and how easy the lists are to use.

56 Hotels We Love

National Geographic Traveler, September 2004 - Named one of the American hotels that deliver a unique experience and a lasting impression.

Award of Excellence

Corporate & Incentive Travel, November 2006 - Recognized by subscribers as a resort that has superior staff service, excellence in accommodations and meeting facilities, trouble-free food and beverage functions, smooth set-ups and arrangements for social functions, exceptional ambiance, and convenient and accessible location.

Inner Circle Award

Association Meetings Magazine - Voted by readers as one of the top hotels in the country for meetings.

Planners' Choice Award

Meeting News Magazine - Recognized as one of the best in the industry by conference and convention planners based on the quality of facilities and services provided.

Golden Links Certified

Corporate Meetings & Incentives - Certified by an advisory panel as an outstanding facility for golf and meetings.

Excellence in the East Award

Meetings East Magazine - Chosen by readers as one of the top 56 properties in the Eastern and Midwestern United States and Canada. The properties were selected based on the quality of meeting space, guest rooms, staff, service, food and beverage, amenities, activities, and value from properties that they have used within the last two years.

Playful Travel Award

Nick Jr. Magazine - Chosen by top family travel experts and editors from Nick Jr. Magazine as well as two Nickjr.com online surveys as a hotel that offers the best facilities and products to suit the needs and tastes of Nick Jr. families. It is accessible, affordable, and accommodating and offers unique features that make kids feel special and make parents feel cared for and comfortable.

Best of the Midwest

Midwest Living Magazine - Featured as one of the top 37 Midwest resorts selected by the editors of Midwest Living in the Best of the Midwest 2006 edition.

Top 25 Around the World

Gourmet Magazine - Selected by Gourmet Magazine as the top hotel in the Midwest and one of the top 25 hotels in the world, in the May 1997 issue.

Greens of Distinction

Corporate & Incentive Travel, 2008 - In recognition of outstanding golf facilities and service for corporate meetings and incentive travel programs as a result of a subscriber survey.

STATE OF MICHIGAN



CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION

ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN
I, Rick Snyder, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim
July 8 through July 14, 2012 as

GRAND HOTEL WEEK

WHEREAS, established in 1887, the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island continues to be one of America's premier vacation destinations; and,

WHEREAS, in 1957, the Michigan Historical Association designated the Grand Hotel as a state historical building and in 1989, the U.S. Department of Interior designated it a national historic landmark; and,

WHEREAS, known for world-class hospitality and its 660-foot front porch, the world's longest, the Grand Hotel and its staff enjoy more than 130,000 overnight guests each season, and have hosted five U.S. presidents; and,

WHEREAS, during this week, we join with the Woodfill and Musser families and all of the Great Lakes State in recognizing and celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Grand Hotel; we encourage Michigan citizens and visitors alike to visit this true, Pure Michigan attraction;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Snyder, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim Sunday, July 8 through Saturday, July 14, 2012 as Grand Hotel Week in Michigan.



A blue ink signature of Rick Snyder.

Rick Snyder
Governor

