

## **Choice Hotels International hosts Representative Mike Kelly (PA-16) and West Virginia congressional nominee Riley Moore for Heart of the House tours of franchised hotels**

*Rep. Kelly toured the Sleep Inn in Erie, Pennsylvania and Moore visited the Tygart Hotel, an Ascend property in Elkins, West Virginia to learn from owners about key economic issues in the lodging industry and what it takes to run a hotel.*

Choice Hotels International hosted Representative Mike Kelly (PA-16) and, in partnership with the American Hotel and Lodging Association, West Virginia Republican congressional nominee Riley Moore for Heart of the House tours at the Sleep Inn in Erie, Pennsylvania and the Tygart Hotel, an Ascend property in Elkins, West Virginia, respectively.

Heart of the House tours give hotel owners the opportunity to meet with elected officials and candidates to give them a firsthand look at what it takes to run a hotel and to educate them about the economic issues facing the lodging industry in their district.

Sleep Inn franchise owner Raj Chandat and General Manager Parth Solanki gave Rep. Kelly a tour of their property and later convened a discussion between the congressman and local business owners about the role of hotels in the Erie community.

Susan Hudson, area director of upscale brands at Choice, walked Moore through the Tygart Hotel's operations and hosted a meeting with the candidate and other hotel business leaders in the community to discuss the challenges and opportunities for hospitality workers in West Virginia.

Choice has hosted four Heart of the House tours at its franchised properties within the last year, including in Concord, New Hampshire and Panama City Florida, as part of its larger effort to champion the interests of small business franchise owners and ensure their perspectives are heard by top decision makers around the country.

The company last month participated in congressional fly-ins with hospitality associations including the AHLA and the International Franchise Association to advocate for policies that benefit franchise owners, small businesses and hotel employees.

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