



Theatrical Stage Employees, Local 84

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March 11, 2008

Via Hand Delivery

Senator Gary D. LeBeau, Co-Chair
Representative Jeffrey J. Berger, Co-Chair
Commerce Committee
Room 110, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Support of Raised Bill No. 5554; *An Act Concerning Tax Credits and Incentives for Live Theater and the performing Arts Industry.*

Dear Chairmen LeBeau, Berger and members of the Committee:

The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 84 ("I.A.T.S.E. Local 84") hereby files these comments in support of Raised Bill No. 5554; *An Act Concerning Tax Credits and Incentives for Live Theater and the performing Arts Industry.* ("Bill No. 5554").

I.A.T.S.E. local 84 is a member Union of the AFL-CIO. I.A.T.S.E. is a theatrical labor union that has been organized for 115 years and I.A.T.S.E. Local 84 has been organized for 107 years. Local 84s' jurisdiction covers the areas of Hartford County, Northern CT. and South-Southeastern CT. The membership is comprised of 115,000 members internationally, (U.S. and Canada) with 150 members in Local 84. Local 84 also has a member- in- training list exceeding 100 men and women.

Connecticut is uniquely positioned because of its' scenic beauty, historic character and highly educated work force to take advantage of opportunities in the arts, theater and entertainment industries. The successes over the past few years in attracting movie production should certainly be expanded to capture additional economic opportunity. Expanding the definition of "qualified production" is more than appropriate, in fact obvious, in the effort to capture and expand the economic opportunity created in the previous legislation that exclude these art forms.

IATSE engages in programs to expand opportunities for new entrants to our industry. We, through our educational programs , actively pursue the training of those who are entering or



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are considering entry into the arts, theater and entertainment industry. We recognize and support through union activities the importance of these industries to Connecticut both in terms of their economic impact and cultural importance. Language contained in Section 3 of HB 5554 is of particular interest to I.A.T.S.E. Local 84. We stand ready and more than willing to support and participate in any manner that may be of assistance under this section. IATSE is uniquely positioned and capable of providing the practical knowledge and hands on training in venues across the state to new entrants and in such internship programs. Likewise because of the decades of experience in all areas of production, as described in HB 5554, that the IATSE has, we are pleased to offer assistance in the organization and administration of such programs.

In summary, I.A.T.S.E Local 84 strongly supports Raised Bill No. 5554; *An Act Concerning Tax Credits and Incentives for Live Theater and the performing Arts Industry* and urges the Committee to support this effort in consideration of the economic impacts and cultural opportunities it represents. We remain available to answer questions and to act as a resource for the Committee as it pleases.

Very truly yours,

Charles E. Buckland IV

Business Representative
IATSE Local 84