



APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE TESTIMONY
February 17, 2009

Good evening Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Bill Crutcher, President of the Yankee Invention Exposition, Inc., an all volunteer, not-for profit corporation devoted to bringing inventors and their new products to Waterbury once a year in an invention exposition to encourage and educate them in the process of developing, protecting, financing and marketing their inventions.

The Yankee Invention Exposition started as a "Pet Project" of the Northwest Connecticut Convention and Visitors Bureau (then the Waterbury Region Convention & Visitors Bureau) to help re-vitalize Waterbury and surrounding towns. The first Exposition in 1995 with only 20 exhibit booths in a local hotel was so successful that the group of volunteers, the Yankee Invention Expo Committee, realized the incredible value and the many avenues that it could explore.

The Exposition, with the continual help and support of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, grew to gather almost 150 exhibitors from all over the country in its most successful year in the Waterbury Armory. It has attracted exhibitors from many foreign countries, including China, Australia, Canada, Great Britain and Hungary. Lately, competition from other invention expositions seeking to copy its successful format has reduced the annual count of exhibitors. The support of the Convention and Visitors Bureau is essential to the survival of the Yankee Invention Exposition and its contribution to the local economy.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William C. Crutcher".

William C. Crutcher, President