

Testimony by Luke Boyd

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Before the Committee on Commerce

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Good morning Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee. For the record, I am Luke Boyd, student at Eastern Connecticut State University. I am here to testify in support of House Bill 6505, *An Act Concerning Expansion, Development and Job Training For the Film and Digital Animation Industry in Connecticut*.

With new advancements in digital technology, filmmakers can produce with greater portability than ever before. This has led to an expansion of movie making beyond Hollywood. It has been a longtime initiative of lawmakers to bolster the film and digital animation industry in the state of Connecticut. However beneficial tax credits and other financial incentives are the state has not seen a complete return on that investment. The state may benefit more and more easily attract filmmakers, by developing a capable workforce trained in the production aspects of digital animation and film.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Hollywood East Task Force, established by some of you seated before me, this bill would augment the pilot program set out to train a skilled workforce in this area. This legislation would implement a three phase program which would allow undergraduate students to accrue a valuable degree and equally valuable real-world experience, all in their home state. Internships and other professional experience in and after graduation will give these future professionals an edge, and an appeal to filmmakers who may otherwise hire out when bringing a film to Connecticut. Every dollar paid to a Connecticut film professional is an investment in our state's future. In this era of economic turbulence, pursuit of this lucrative and culturally enriching business should be of even higher priority.

The Connecticut State University System actively supports comprehensive film and digital animation curriculums and programs. Western is proud to host its School of Visual and Performing Arts, as well as prominent guest faculty and an annual celebration of student animation, 'AniFest'. Cutting edge technologies and facilities have arrived on Central's campus in New Britain. Student submissions from Eastern to last year's PSA contest concerning underage drinking won 1st and 3rd place. As a consortium CSU has laid a solid foundation in student film production which may benefit from increased investment in education and job training. As a student at Eastern, I have had the opportunity to participate in the production of student film and campus television. I was impressed with the depth of knowledge and professionalism of my peers, yet we represent only a small microcosm of the student body.

Increased investment and focused career development will allow that small student contingent to grow into a highly skilled workforce poised to meet the demands of increased film production in the State of Connecticut. The endorsement of this bill is a step in the right direction, and I urge you in wholehearted sincerity to give it your support.

Thank you for listening.