

March 4, 2010

*Statement of Don Barberino, Director of Marketing of Autotote Enterprises, Inc. in Favor of Raised Bill No. 5236 – An Act Concerning Additional Off Track Betting Branch Facility in New London.*

Senator Stillman, Representative Dargan and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today to support of Raised Bill No. 5236, An Act Concerning An Additional Off Track Betting Facility in New London. The purpose of this legislation is to enable the New London City Council to decide whether to include the simulcasting or display of video in the New London Off- Track Betting facility (“OTB”).

Last year, the New London City Council reviewed the proposed OTB plans, held a public hearing to discuss the proposal, and ultimately voted in favor of locating an OTB facility in its community.

Simulcasting or the display of video enhances the experience of for the racing fan by allowing them to watch the race. Without simulcasting, racing fans will only be able to view the odds and hear the race call. Members of the public can view live horse racing over cable TV, over the internet, and even on their blackberry devices. Indeed, if you log on to ESPN.com and select horse racing, you can view streaming video of live horse races around the country. It has been our experience that states that have legalized pari-mutuel wagering do not typically require additional legislation to televise races at the wagering facility. More commonly, there is concomitant approval of televising a race once the state’s racing commission has approved wagering.

Last year, this Committee unanimously supported similar legislation for Putnam and Milford; and in 2007, the Legislature passed simulcasting in branches located in Norwalk, East Haven, Waterbury and Torrington. The new branch in Putnam located at J.D. Coopers is doing very well and it has helped to drive business during this difficult economic climate. The Milford branch has also proven to be a popular destination.

I ask for your full support of Raised Bill No. 5236 and again thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony.