



City of New London

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February 23, 2010

Senator Stillman, Representative Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee:

My name is Rob Pero and I am the Mayor of the City of New London. I'm here today to support Raised Bill No. 5236 – An Act Concerning An Additional Off-Track Betting Facility in New London.

On December 8, 2009, the New London City Council approved the establishment of an OTB facility at 24 Eugene O'Neill Drive. This approval came after a public hearing in November 2009. This economic project will create 25 to 30 new jobs and generate new revenue to the city over \$65,000, plus additional property tax and sales tax revenue. More importantly, this project will revitalize a vacant store front and also create a downtown restaurant.

Raised Bill No. 5236 simply provides the New London City Council and The Division of Special Revenue the ability to further discuss the video display/simulcasting of horse races. Currently, such races are broadcasted live on ESPN.com, ABC, CBS and other major networks. Also, I would note, my own cable company MetroCast, provides live horseracing coverage called HRTV on channel 244.

The business and community partnership of long time resident Bill Cornish and Autotote, Inc. provides a unique opportunity for the city and both are dedicated to making this restaurant and horse racing venue a success.

I would urge the support of this committee and the state legislature to approve Raised Bill 5236 as it did last year for the communities in Putnam and Milford.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Respectfully,

Robert Pero
Mayor
City of New London