



February 25, 2010

Testimony of

JENNIFER PARSONS

Chair, Connecticut Broadcasters Association

Before the

Commerce Committee

concerning

SENATE BILL 176, AN ACT CONCERNING THE FILM TAX CREDIT

Chairman LeBeau, Chairman Berger, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide you the Connecticut Broadcasters Association's comments in concerning S.B. 176. My name is Jennifer Parsons and I am Chair of the Board of Directors of the Association. The Connecticut Broadcasters Association (CBA) membership comprises all of the FCC-licensed broadcast radio and television stations in Connecticut.

While the CBA's membership does not take extensive advantage of the tax credits afforded by Connecticut General Statute §§ 12-217*jj*, *ii* and *kk*, the CBA believes that the availability of these credits is a prudent measure that will go far to foster the development of the film and video production industry in Connecticut. The law appears to be succeeding by encouraging both the establishment of long-term productions in the state (*e.g.*, "Deal or No Deal in Waterford") and remote productions by major motion picture studios. When these two types of activities become prevalent enough, Connecticut will be able to sustain a significant skilled work force in the industry. This will not only assist in the revitalization of the state's economy, but will benefit existing Connecticut employers in the industry by strengthening and deepening the pool of qualified workers.

It is not realistic, however, to believe that major motion picture studios will base more than 50 percent of their operations in the state—nor is it necessary that any do so in order to develop an established film production work force in Connecticut. It will be sufficient to have enough remote productions regularly filming in the state to sustain an indigenous labor pool. Consequently, while S.B. 176's proposal to make the film production tax credits available as tax rebates would indeed enhance the attractiveness of the program, limiting the program to entities with 50 percent of their total studio production in the state would only serve to cut off the flow of major remote productions to the state, thus eliminating a fundamental tool of the policy. The appropriate compromise may be to make rebates available to companies with the proposed 50 percent of their studio production in the state while retaining the credits for productions of companies that do not.

Thank you for considering our comments.

90 South Park Street Willimantic, Connecticut 06226
860-633-5031 • Fax 860-456-5688
www.ctba.org