

Testimony Presented to the Commerce Committee

March 16, 2010

Jim Abromaitis, Chairman, Connecticut Sports Authority

Testimony related to S.B. 455

An Act Concerning the Connecticut Sports and Marketing Corporation

Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger and Members of the Commerce Committee,

My name is Jim Abromaitis, Chairman of the Connecticut Sports Advisory Board. Back on February 9th members of the Sports Advisory Board brought a concept to you which would centralize efforts to make Connecticut a friendlier environment for the sports industry. At that presentation you asked that the group come back to the Commerce Committee with some specifics on what type of organization would be needed.

We have submitted language which has become the basis of S.B. 455. I believe members of the Sports Advisory Board are appreciative of the Committee's commitment to the establishment of the Connecticut Sports Corporation.

I believe the value of sports to Connecticut both economically and socially was demonstrated back in February. The establishment of a Connecticut Sports Corporation should allow us to increase that value by making the process of attracting and retaining sports events a more organized process. A friendlier sports environment with an organization which would facilitate marketing, recruiting and retaining events has proven to be successful in other states. Connecticut needs to enjoy similar success and be on the cutting edge in all its efforts to grow its economy. Having the sports industry rally around this concept is proof of this industry wanting to be cutting edge and a partner with the state.

Before I end I would respectfully ask that a couple of sections in the current language be edited to more closely reflect the intention of the language we had submitted: Namely the language that opens membership to any university in the state both public or private; and some allowance for the new Corporation to determine the nonprofit status of the organization which would allow fundraising for the purpose of carrying out the mission of the Corporation.

Thank you for allowing me to appear before you, for considering some edits, and most especially for your support of the proposed legislation.