

TESTIMONY FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING - 3/7/11
BY KEVIN SEGALLA – CONNECTICUT PRODUCTION COALITION

Good afternoon, Senator Daily, Representative Widlitz and members of the finance committee.

My name is Kevin Segalla and I am here representing Connecticut Production Coalition, an organization with over 2000 members around the state advocating for the growth of the entertainment industry here in Connecticut. Our membership is made up of industry professionals as well as some of the many vendors that serve the industry and have been witness to the tremendous stimulus provided by the tax incentive program for production. Attached to my written testimony is our latest newsletter, which details some of the exciting things happening around the state.

I also serve as the CEO of Connecticut Film Center. Over the past five years, CFC has developed extensive studio and support facilities in both Stamford and Norwalk. We have acquired nearly a million square feet of vacant industrial space that we have repurposed for the entertainment industry. Included in that is a recent partnership with New York City's Chelsea Piers to develop a 450,000 sq ft world-class indoor sports facility in Fairfield County.

Our facilities currently house Showtime's hit TV show "The Big C" – for which actress Laura Linney just won a Golden Globe, and the sitcom "Are We There Yet", for which TBS recently ordered 100 episodes – all to be shot on our soundstages.

I am here today to testify on the Governor's Revenue Recommendations in Section 6 of SB1007 concerning the production tax incentives.

First off, let me say that this program is working. It is creating jobs, stimulating the economy, and driving new tax revenue for the State. We are well on our way to developing the permanent industry and infrastructure intended when the

program was created.

We've heard a lot about the need to create jobs in Connecticut. It is the key to not just our current budget issues, but to this state's ongoing competitiveness in the 21st century economy.

To this end, it is very important that we maintain a strong program that continues to create jobs and stimulate the economy.

At CPC, we certainly do understand the current budget crisis and the need for the state to find savings wherever it can.

The proposed changes put forth in SB1007 would neither achieve budget savings nor grow the economy.

However, we would very much like to work with the Administration and the Legislature to explore ways to both achieve efficiencies and assure that the program is working the best that it can for Connecticut companies.

Through the forward thinking of the legislature and this committee, we have built a thriving new industry here in Connecticut. Let's work together, Government and Industry, to continue the growth.

Thank you very much.