



COMMENTS REGARDING CONNECTICUT RAISED BILL No. 287:
An Act Concerning the Maximum Decibel Level at Movie Theaters

Bow Tie Cinemas is a four-generation, family owned company that began with vaudeville theaters in 1900, making us the oldest theater circuit in the United States. We are the eighth largest exhibitor in the nation as well. In the State of Connecticut, we are the exhibitor with the largest number of locations and screens. We currently own and operate 86 screens at 11 locations. Our theaters are located in Greenwich, Stamford (2), Norwalk (2), New Canaan, Wilton, Trumbull, New Haven, Hartford and West Hartford. The company employs a total of 382 employees in the State, 79 being full-time and 303 part-time.

I am the Company's Chief Operating Officer, and have resided in Connecticut for 10 years now.

Bow Tie Cinemas has invested heavily in our Connecticut locations, through both new builds and renovations. We have completed our industry mandated conversion to digital projection at all of our Connecticut locations. All of our projection and sound systems are regularly maintained for optimum presentation that is consistent throughout our circuit. Sound systems are regularly calibrated to ensure proper operation.

Digital technology has given us great flexibility in show scheduling and a vast amount of alternative content presentations. Bow Tie Cinemas presents everything from regular movies to concerts and operas. All of these presentations are shipped to us on a "DCP", or "Digital Cinema Package", or are delivered via satellite. Each piece of content is optimally mixed for proper sound levels by its sound team, and is checked by theater management or before it is ever presented to our guests to ensure proper presentation.

Acceptable sound levels as heard by our guests can vary depending on their personal perception. It is our company policy to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our guests, and management responds immediately to any complaints of loud or low sound in an auditorium. Any necessary volume adjustments are made. In addition, as part of their regular duties, ushers and managers routinely check each theater auditorium multiple times during the show to ensure the comfort of our guests. Ushers check picture and sound, social behavior, and temperature during each presentation.

In addition to myself, Bow Tie Cinemas' owners, VP of Operations, and Regional Manager for Connecticut all reside in the State, and routinely visit our theaters checking for anything that would detract from the patron experience, including picture and sound presentation.

Thank you for giving the theater operators in the State the opportunity to express our opinions. Bow Tie Cinemas kindly requests that you vote "NO" when considering this regulation. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Masher
Chief Operating Officer