

NATIONAL AMUSEMENTS THEATERS
SHOWCASE SHOWCASE
CINEMA DE LUX

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

National Amusements has been operating theatres here in Connecticut since 1969. At the present time we operate Showcase Cinemas Bridgeport and Fairfield Cinemas for a total of 21 screens. We employ roughly 55 part-time and 9 full-time employees in Connecticut. I myself grew up in Cheshire and now reside in Wallingford. I share my company's sentiment when I say we have great pride in our Connecticut history, and enjoy doing business here.

I agree with the remarks made by CATO's Executive Director Doug Murdoch, and would just like to expand briefly on National Amusement's position.

I'm sure many of you have fond memories of visiting the state's first multiplexes in Orange and East Hartford. Through the years much has changed in the movie theatre industry. In my 20 years' experience I have seen first-hand the evolution of digital sound and digital projection. I've performed every job in the trade including projection, concession attendant, usher, and box office cashier. I've worked my way up through National Amusements like many of my colleagues, and we pride ourselves on guest satisfaction.

I have experienced minimal issues with loud trailers in the last five years. I believe this has been accomplished by the efforts put forth by NATO and Hollywood as well as theatre management. With the current technology of today, theatre managers can specify different fader settings for trailers as well as the feature film. Currently, my theatre managers will give each film a test run prior to opening to the public. They'll check for things like sound levels when doing so. If they note a particular problem, they will make the necessary adjustments prior to opening night. During engagements, management continues to monitor sound levels by instructing theatre staff to make routine patrols of auditoriums. Any issues are immediately brought to the attention of management. Many times, a manager or staff member is in the auditorium during the trailers. I myself visit my locations on Friday and Saturday evenings; part of my procedure when conducting these operational observations is to check on the presentation. I as well will note sound problems. When a guest does come out and make a complaint, management immediately takes action and manually adjusts the fader. Management then monitors that auditorium to ensure guests are comfortable and satisfied.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard. National Amusements asks you to vote "no" when considering this regulation, and I would be happy to answer and questions you may have. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,
Kyle J. Addy, Southern New England Area Manager