

RE: HB 6267 - CT TAX CREDITS

Dear Finance Committee and Esteemed Members of the Connecticut Legislature

My name is Jeff Bishop and I currently perform business recruitment and economic development functions here in the Greater Bridgeport area with the Bridgeport Regional Business Council. Prior to this I was with the Bridgeport Economic Resource Center's Office of film, which was a public private organization working hand-in-hand with the City of Bridgeport's Office of Planning and Economic Development. During the tenure of the Bridgeport Office of Film there were more than 30 major motion pictures and/or projects filmed in the City of Bridgeport and surrounding area. They came to our region not only because of the wonderful and diverse scenery available, but also because of the film and digital media tax credit program that was in place.

These films and projects brought a tremendous amount of economic activity and energy into our communities on a regular basis. In addition to the "star power" that came to town, it attracted national attention in a positive way, generated civic pride and elevated our standing in the movie industry as a great place to do business. It seemed that the headlines in our local papers and in the media were more about the film projects that came into our town and took over with their film shooting instead of the other types of shootings.

There was always a buzz in the air and a certain energy that is hard to quantify but was still there and on display for all to see. It was great to see people come out to see the movie shoots and see their favorite stars in action.

In addition to the economic impact and ripple effect that the film credits provided, there was the conjuring of film making magic that you can't put a price tag on.

This was a great tax credit program that actually produced tangible results. I urge you to pass HB 6267.

Here are a few of the major motion pictures and projects filmed here in the Bridgeport area between 2008 – 2014:

**All Good Things (2010)**

Crime, Drama, Mystery

Stars: Ryan Gosling, Kirsten Dunst, Frank Langella, Lily Rabe

**Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (2008)**

Action, Adventure, Fantasy

Director: Steven Spielberg | Stars: Harrison Ford, Cate Blanchett, Shia LaBeouf, Karen Allen

**Confessions of a Shopaholic (2009)**

Comedy, Family, Romance

Director: P.J. Hogan | Stars: Isla Fisher, Hugh Dancy, Krysten Ritter, Joan Cusack

**Righteous Kill (2008)**

Crime, Drama, Mystery

Director: Jon Avnet | Stars: Robert De Niro, Al Pacino, Carla Gugino, 50 Cent

**Old Dogs (2009)**

Director: Walt Becker | Stars: Robin Williams, John Travolta, Seth Green, Kelly Preston

**The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2 (2008)**

Comedy, Drama, Romance

Director: Sanaa Hamri | Stars: America Ferrera, Alexis Bledel, Amber Tamblyn, Blake Lively

**What Just Happened (2008)**

Comedy, Drama

Stars: Robert De Niro, John Turturro, Stanley Tucci, Sean Penn

**And So It Goes (2014)**

Comedy, Drama, Romance

Director: Rob Reiner | Stars: Michael Douglas, Diane Keaton, Sterling Jerins, Annie Parisse

**Officer Down (II) (2013)**

Crime, Drama

Director: Brian A. Miller | Stars: Stephen Dorff, Stephen Lang, David Boreanaz, James Woods

**College Road Trip (2008)**

Adventure, Comedy, Drama

Director: Roger Kumble | Stars: Raven-Symoné, Martin Lawrence, Kym Whitley, Adam LeFevre

**Extreme Makeover: Home Edition (2012)**

Comedy, Drama, Family

Stars: Ty Pennington, Paul DiMeo, Michael Moloney, Tracy Hutson

**Dorothy and the Witches of Oz (2012)**

Action, Family, Fantasy

Director: Leigh Scott | Stars: Paulie Rojas Redding, Eliza Swenson, Billy Boyd, Christopher Lloyd

**Pistol Whipped (2008)**

Action, Crime, Drama

Director: Roel Reiné | Stars: Steven Seagal, Paul Calderon, Renée Elise Goldsberry, Lance Henriksen

**The Witches of Oz (2011)**

Action, Comedy, Fantasy

Stars: Paulie Rojas Redding, Eliza Swenson, Billy Boyd, Lance Henriksen

**Broadcasting Christmas (2016 TV Movie)**

Comedy, Drama, Family

Director: Peter Sullivan | Stars: Melissa Joan Hart, Dean Cain, Cynthia Gibb, Jackée Harry

**The Penny Dreadful Picture Show (2013)**

Horror

Directors: Nick Everhart, Leigh Scott, Eliza Swenson | Stars: Eliza Swenson, Craig Blair, Theodore Bouloukos, Tyler Elliot Burke

**Made for Each Other (2009)**

Comedy

Director: Daryl Goldberg | Stars: Josh Alexander, Christina Brucato, Lyman Chen, Caroline Clay

**Santa Con (2014)**

Comedy, Drama, Family

Director: Melissa Joan Hart | Stars: Barry Watson, Melissa Sagemiller, Scott Grimes, Melissa Joan Hart

**The Word (2013)**

Drama

Director: Gregory W. Friedle | Stars: Kevin O'Donnell, James Naughton, Maggie Lacey, Kelly AuCoin

**For One More Day (2007 TV Movie)**

Drama, Fantasy

Director: Lloyd Kramer | Stars: Michael Imperioli, Ellen Burstyn, Scott Cohen, Alice Drummond

**Made in America (2003–2011)**

Documentary

Stars: Diane Charles, John Ratzenberger, Chase White, Darin Ferraro

Sincerely,

Jeff Bishop