

February 7, 2011

VIA HAND DELIVERY

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COMMISSION
2011 FEB -7 PM 5:32
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

RE: MUR 6439 – World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc. ("WWE")
and Vince McMahon

Dear Mr. Jordan:

On behalf of World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc. ("WWE") and Mr. Vincent McMahon, we submit this consolidated response to the formal Complaint submitted to the Federal Election Commission ("Commission") on December 2, 2010, which Complaint was transmitted to WWE and Mr. McMahon by your letter dated December 13, 2010.

For the reasons stated herein, we respectfully submit that the Complaint fails to provide a factual basis showing a reason to believe that a violation was committed by WWE or Mr. McMahon of the Federal Election Campaign Act ("FECA"). Instead, as we will demonstrate, the Complaint seeks to abridge WWE's constitutional right to engage in responsive speech to defend itself from negative attacks made against it during the Connecticut senatorial race. The Complaint is based on nothing more than the speculation, innuendo and conjecture of one of the persons who engaged in and directed negative speech against WWE during the senatorial campaign, Nancy DiNardo, the Chairwoman of the Connecticut Democratic State Central Committee ("Ms. DiNardo"). In essence, Ms. DiNardo now seeks federal censure against WWE and Mr. McMahon because the WWE exercised its First Amendment rights to respond to the attacks made on it during campaign season. Herein, WWE and Mr. McMahon provide factual context for the actions of WWE challenged by the Complaint. Absolutely none of that highly relevant context was provided in the Complaint. Once that context becomes clear, this Complaint is best seen as a direct attempt to cast First Amendment responsive speech as illegal. If the theme of the Complaint is ever accepted as a viable theory, it would ignore the Commission's rules and decisions and raise substantial and insurmountable First Amendment issues. Commission rules and regulations could then operate to divest a person or corporation under attack of its right to respond to such speech during political campaigns.

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Additionally, the Complaint plainly implicates matters outside the scope of FECA, such as Ms. DiNardo's fanciful contention that WWE produced a wrestling program on election night to suppress the vote in Bridgeport. That canard was included in the Complaint even though Ms. DiNardo clearly knew the vote in Bridgeport was not suppressed and, in fact, turnout was so large that polls had to remain open past regular closing time to accommodate voters unable to cast their ballots.

For the reasons developed more fully herein, we respectfully submit that the Complaint should be summarily dismissed by the Commission.

I. THE COMMISSION'S STANDARD FOR SUMMARY DISMISSAL

By law and the Commission's practices and procedures, the Commission has the power to investigate alleged FECA violations only where there is "reason to believe" that a violation has been committed. 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(2). The Commission may find a "reason to believe" that a violation occurred only where a complaint states "sufficient specific facts, which, if proven true, would constitute a violation of the FECA." Statement of Reasons, MUR 4960 (Hillary Rodham Clinton for U.S. Senate Exploratory Committee) at 1 (Dec. 21, 2000). Complaints not based upon personal knowledge must identify a source of information that reasonably gives rise to a belief in the truth of the allegations presented. See 11 C.F.R. § 111.4(d)(2); MUR 4545 (ClintonGore '96 Primary Comm./Amtrak) ("While the available evidence is inadequate to determine whether the costs of the Train Trip were properly paid, the complainant's allegations are not sufficient to support a finding of reason to believe . . ."); MUR 3534 (Bibleway Church of Atlas Road) ("[T]here was a lack of evidence indicating the literature was distributed on behalf of the [Respondent] or at its expense."). More speculation is not accepted as true by the Commission, nor are unwarranted legal conclusions accepted as accurate or true. *Id.* See also MUR 4869 (American Postal Workers Union); Statement of Reasons of Chairman Wold and Commissioners Mason and Thomas, MUR 4850 (Fossella) (Jul. 20, 2000). The Commission does not impose a heightened evidentiary threshold on a respondent confronted with general allegations of coordination, as is the case here, in order to obtain summary dismissal. Statement of Reasons, MUR 6277 (In re Robert Kirkland) (Jan. 28, 2011). Nevertheless, even if sufficient facts were alleged in the Complaint, it should be summarily dismissed if the response refutes those allegations with "sufficiently compelling evidence." See Statement of Reasons, MUR 4960 at 2.

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II. THE COMPLAINT

The Complaint is not based on personal knowledge and completely fails to point to any instance of actual improper coordination. Simply put, Ms. DiNardo does not claim to have been privy to any communications between Mr. and Mrs. McMahon or for that matter anybody. Instead, the Complaint is based on Ms. DiNardo's conjecture and speculation regarding what she terms three examples of "possible improper coordination" between Linda McMahon, the Republican candidate in the senatorial race, and WWE. Not only is the Complaint completely devoid of any actual evidence of such "possible illegal coordination," it makes no attempt to offer facts meeting definitions in this Commission's regulations defining those terms. On its face, it is based on nothing more than Ms. DiNardo's hyperbolic conjecture that it is "inconceivable" that improper coordination did not occur, largely based on nothing more than the fact Linda McMahon is the wife of Mr. McMahon, the Chairman of WWE and controlling shareholder of WWE.

Indeed, the Complaint opens with a faulty premise—that WWE is Linda McMahon's "family's company." In fact, WWE is a publicly traded company, but Mr. McMahon, not Mrs. McMahon, is the dominant and controlling shareholder of WWE. See Affidavit of Vincent McMahon, ¶ 3, Exh. A. Based solely on her erroneous conclusions about the individual stock ownership of the McMahon family in WWE, Ms. DiNardo concludes that she is justified in "implying" that Linda McMahon continues to "retain ultimate financial responsibility for WWE events." In fact and law, however, Linda McMahon resigned from her former management position with WWE when she announced her candidacy in September 2009. Press Release, World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc., *WWE's Linda McMahon Resigns to Run for U.S. Senate*, Sept. 16, 2009, available at <http://wwe.com/news/2009/091609-1.jsp>. In November 2009, Mrs. McMahon resigned from the Board of Directors. McMahon Aff., ¶ 4, Exh. A. Linda McMahon individually owns a small fraction of the outstanding shares of WWE, and in no way could or does exercise control over WWE matters as a result of her small individual ownership of WWE stock. As such, contrary to Ms. DiNardo's incorrect legal conclusion that Linda McMahon "continues to retain ultimate financial responsibility for WWE events," Linda McMahon has had precisely no responsibility, financial or otherwise, for WWE events or WWE matters since her resignation from all positions with WWE in fall 2009. McMahon Aff., ¶¶ 4, 5, Exh. A.

Based on nothing more than the fact that Linda McMahon is married to Vince McMahon, and completely ignoring all the events which figured in WWE's independent decision to speak out to protect its name and reputation from intense and unrelenting attack, Ms. DiNardo postulates that three actions of WWE "may involve illegal coordination" or "may represent [an]

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illegal coordinated campaign expenditure" or that an event sponsored by WWE "may represent illegal coordination" and even that the scheduling of a WWE event in Bridgeport on election night "suggest[ed] intent to suppress voter turnout in the area."¹

Ms. DiNardo finds it "inconceivable" that the three actions of WWE questioned by her were not undertaken in coordination with Linda McMahon's Senate Campaign. Those three actions, as polemically characterized by Ms. DiNardo, are (1) "WWE's political campaign and rapid response news media operation" on behalf of Linda McMahon's Senate Campaign, (2) the scheduling of "Fan Appreciation Day" by WWE in Hartford on the Saturday before the election, and (3) "WWE's potential interference with voting on election night in Bridgeport" because it taped a television show there that night.

On its face, the Complaint reflects speculative and unsupported allegations warranting summary dismissal. When the factual context for the actions and speech of WWE challenged by

¹ This allegation, made without one iota of factual support, is beyond the Commission's jurisdiction in any event. When a complaint cites activity which does not constitute a violation of the FECA, the Commission may find no reason to believe. See Statement of Reasons, MUR 4960, *supra*; Statement of Reasons, MUR 4869 (American Postal Workers Union) (Mar. 21, 2000).

It is odd and frankly indicative of intent to misuse this Commission's process that Complainant continued to include this frivolous assertion in the Complaint filed after the elections since by then it was well known that voter turnout in Bridgeport was so large that polls had to be kept open late by special court order. See Bob Connors et al., *Court Hearing, Extended Voting Hours Over Bridgeport Ballots*, NBC Connecticut, Nov. 2, 2010, available at <http://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/elections/2010/more-racism/Polls-Running-Low-on-Ballots-106559278.html>; *Judge Orders Bridgeport Polls to Stay Open Until 10:00 p.m.*, New Haven Register, Nov. 2, 2010, available at <http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2010/11/02/news/doc4cd0ac00350ed418107899.txt>. It was also widely reported that the persons responsible for having sufficient ballots present clearly misjudged in the Bridgeport area. See, e.g., *BRIDGEPORT 'CHAOS': 21,000 ballots readied for 69,000 registered voters*, Connecticut Post, Nov. 3, 2010, available at <http://www.ctpost.com/news/article/BRIDGEPORT-CHAOS-21-000-ballots-readied-for-787274.php>. Thus, as of the date the Complaint was filed, Ms. DiNardo clearly knew that the vote was not suppressed and in fact was so large that the polls in Bridgeport were ordered to remain open past their scheduled closing time to enable voters in line at the polls to vote.

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Ms. DiNardo is actually provided, as we do here in summary fashion, it is clear that the Complaint is a misguided attempt to punish WWE for defending its reputation by engaging in responsive speech to attacks on WWE during the 2010 senatorial campaign.²

III. NECESSARY FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Following her resignation from WWE to pursue the Republican nomination in the fall of 2009, and as has been widely reported, Linda McMahon organized and ran a largely self-funded campaign—first for the nomination of her party and, once nominated, during the general election. Typically, the person who handled media inquiries for the McMahon campaign was

² The right to engage in responsive speech is a core fundamental tenet of First Amendment jurisprudence. “The first remedy of any victim [sic] of defamation is self-help—using available opportunities to contradict the lie or correct the error and thereby to minimize its adverse impact on reputation.” *Gertz v. Robert Welch, Inc.*, 418 U.S. 323, 344 (1974). *See id.* (noting that public figures are expected to use their significantly greater access to mass media and their own free-speech rights to defend their reputations); *Dun & Bradstreet, Inc. v. Greenmoss Builders, Inc.*, 472 U.S. 749, 777 & n.3 (1985) (same); *Curtis Publ’g Co. v. Butts*, 388 U.S. 130, 164 (1967) (plurality op.) (same). *See also Miami Herald Publ’g Co. v. Tornillo*, 418 U.S. 241 (1974) (holding that newspapers could not be compelled to print victim’s reply to character attacks and thus requiring victim to self-fund and possibly self-publish responsive speech, but necessarily recognizing victim’s right to make this responsive speech); *Red Lion Broad. Co. v. FCC*, 395 U.S. 367 (1969) (approving [now-voluntarily-repealed] FCC regulations allowing any person attacked on broadcast network to air response to attack); *Wash. State Grange v. Wash. State Republican Party*, 552 U.S. 442, 461 (2008) (Roberts, C.J., concurring) (noting that political party has no general right to stop disreputable person from expressing personal preference for that party, as “party protects its message in such a case through responsive speech of its own”); *Cook v. Gralike*, 531 U.S. 510, 532 (2001) (Rehnquist, C.J., concurring) (noting importance of allowing politicians to effectively counter attacks against them via responsive-speech rights); *Good News Club v. Milford Cent. Sch.*, 533 U.S. 98, 124-26 (2001) (Scalia, J., concurring) (explaining that free-speech right to voice opinion from particular viewpoint carries corollary right to persuasively speak in defense of that opinion when that opinion is attacked); *Rosenblatt v. Buer*, 383 U.S. 75, 92 (1966) (Stewart, J., concurring) (“The right of a man to the protection of his own reputation from unjustified invasion and wrongful hurt reflects no more than our basic concept of the essential dignity and worth of every human being—a concept at the root of any decent system of ordered liberty.”).

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Mr. Ed Patru, who had no affiliation with WWE before or since the campaign. Conversely, WWE had its own Public Relations and Corporate Communication staff to handle media inquiries regarding WWE, including Mr. Robert Zimmerman, Vice President of that Department, and Michelle Wilson, Executive Vice President of Marketing.

A recurring theme of the senatorial campaign contested by Mrs. McMahon was for her opponents to make negative statements regarding WWE's business or history, sometimes with respect to matters that were decades old. These attacks on WWE often resulted in various media contacting WWE for comment, context, or facts, and WWE personnel would typically respond to protect the reputation of WWE. An example of such attacks was a *Politico* article regarding claims made and settled nearly two decades ago against two former WWE employees of inappropriate sexual misconduct. Ben Smith & Maggie Haberman, *Linda McMahon's world of wrestling*, *Politico*, July 30, 2010, available at <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0710/40476.html>. Such stories directly and negatively affected WWE's reputation and, therefore, the company found it necessary to respond to protect its independent interests. See McMahon Aff. ¶¶ 8, 36, Exh. A; Wilson Aff. ¶¶ 7, 26, Exh. B. While the context of the senatorial campaign meant that the attacks against the Company were generally used as a method to attack its former CEO Linda McMahon, the Company responded to defend its separate and independent interests, not Mrs. McMahon's political aspirations. The Company's reputation, its fans, its employees, its entertainers, and its brand were the subjects of a well-publicized, politically-motivated attack.³ In order to protect its reputation and good name, the WWE

³ See Paul Bass, *As a Senate Race Tightens, Wrestling Becomes a Campaign Issue*, *The New York Times*, Sept. 29, 2010, available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/29/nyregion/29conn.html>; Ken Dixon, *His lead vanished, Blumenthal now counts on debate with McMahon*, *Connecticut Post*, Sept. 28, 2010, available at <http://www.newstimes.com/news/article/His-lead-vanished-Blumenthal-now-counts-on-678661.php>; Susan Haigh, *Devs, unions bash McMahon, WWE in Conn. Senate race*, *Associated Press*, Sept. 22, 2010, available at <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory?id=11702904>; Brian Lockhart, *WWE: State auditing company for misclassification of employees*, *Connecticut Post*, Sept. 15, 2010, available at <http://www.ctpost.com/news/article/WWE-State-auditing-company-for-misclassification-658473.php>; Eric Kleefeld, *Does Linda McMahon Have a Dead Wrestler Problem?*, *Talking Points Memo*, Sept. 9, 2010, available at <http://tymdc.talkingpointsmemo.com/2010/09/does-linda-mcmahon-have-a-dead-wrestler-problem.php>; Ed Stannard, *McMahon slammed in deaths of wrestlers; Blumenthal, other say her firm is at fault*, *The New Haven Register*, Sept. 5, 2010, available at <http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2010/09/05/news/doc4c830375dfb70636128115.txt>; Ted Mann, *Dead wrestler's father blasts McMahon, WWE*, *The Day*, Aug. 26, 2010, available at <http://www.theday.com/article/20100826/>

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responded to explain the nature of its Company and its products – family entertainment, community outreach, and high employee morale—and on the issues used to portray WWE in a negative light.

The negative campaign tactics against WWE were not isolated, random nor infrequent during the senatorial campaign. The regularity and tenor with which these attacks were levied against the WWE forced it to respond to protect its reputation. For instance, in March 2010, speaking to the fact that Mr. McMahon was not appearing with his wife on the campaign trail, Ms. DiNardo was quoted as stating that “[n]aturally, they’re going to not have Vince there so people can remember the company that she has created, which promotes sex and violence.” Neil Vigdor, *Paging Vince McMahon: Flamboyant WWE showman keeps a low profile during wife’s Senate Run*, The Stamford Advocate, Mar. 26, 2010, available at <http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/news/article/Paging-Vince-McMahon-Flamboyant-WWE-showman-424644.php>. In August 2010, Ms. DiNardo stated “As the party chair, I’m not going to let her background . . . go unrecorded. You’ve had a woman whom [sic] made her billions by promoting violence, rape, degrading women and developmentally disabled people . . .” Neil Vigdor, *McMahon basks in congratulations, national attention*, News Times, Aug. 11, 2010, available at <http://www.newstimes.com/news/article/McMahon-basks-in-congratulations-national-612491.php>.

The negative speech directed at WWE intensified during early to mid-October. Looking only at the senatorial debates telecast throughout Connecticut on October 4, 7 and 12, there were allegations that WWE sent jobs overseas by buying merchandise there; that WWE had paid a million dollars to lobbyists to “strong-arm Congress” to prevent legislation that would impose penalties on companies that market sex and violence; that there was an investigation into “criminal allegations” regarding WWE’s classification of wrestlers as independent contractors;

NWS12/308269378/1018; Peter Applebome, *Politics, Wrestling and Accountability*, The New York Times, Aug. 25, 2010, available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/26/nyregion/26towns.html>; Brian Lockhart, *Wrestler’s death renews focus on McMahon*, WWE, Connecticut Post, Aug. 17, 2010, available at <http://www.ctpost.com/news/article/Wrestler-s-death-renews-focus-on-McMahon-WWE-619584.php>; Elyse Siegel, *Dick Blumenthal Fires At Linda McMahon Over WWE ‘Violence, Sex and Abusive Treatment of Women’*, The Huffington Post, July 4, 2010, available at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/07/02/dick-blumenthal-fires-at_n_633857.html; Peter Wallsten & Devlin Barrett, *Pro Wrestling’s Image Looms Over Senate Race*, The Wall Street Journal, July 2, 2010, available at <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704525704575341093327012212.html>.

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that WWE dodged taxes for unemployment compensation, Social Security and Medicare; that WWE had paid lobbyists to help with a steroid investigation by Congress; that WWE had marketed sex and violence to children; that WWE had lobbied state legislatures to stop steroid and drug testing; that WWE required wrestlers to sign "death clauses" absolving WWE of all responsibility towards its talent; and that WWE's wellness policy for wrestlers was "not working too well, there have been several dead wrestlers since she started campaigning for this office."⁴

A. THE "STAND UP FOR WWE" PROGRAM

In the face of the negative speech directed at WWE outlined above, WWE exercised its right to engage in responsive speech to protect its business and reputation. One example of the WWE's responsive speech was the "Stand Up for WWE" program. On October 18, 2010, WWE issued a press release announcing a "new viral campaign" launched that day on WWE.com and social networking websites. The press release indicated that WWE would correct factual inaccuracies that had been reported about it during the election season. Press Release, World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc., Fans Stand Up for WWE, Oct. 18, 2010, available at http://corporate.wwe.com/news/2010/2010_10_18.jsp. That same day, WWE posted a videotaped message by Mr. McMahon on WWE's website. In the videotaped message posted on wwe.com, Mr. McMahon explained to WWE's fans the reason for initiating the "Stand Up for WWE" program.⁵ Mr. McMahon's statement was decidedly apolitical. He made the entirely accurate statement that the Connecticut senatorial campaign had "put the spotlight on WWE" and had "resulted in some negative and inaccurate attacks on our company." He then explained that he was reaching out "directly to you, the WWE Universe, our fans, to provide you the real facts about WWE." He did not expressly advocate the election or defeat of either candidate then or at any time during the "Stand Up for WWE" program and is not alleged to have done so anywhere in the Complaint. Transcript of "Vince McMahon addresses the WWE Universe" (Oct. 18, 2010) (Exhibit K); see also "Vince McMahon addresses the WWE Universe," Stand Up for WWE Videos, WWE.com/inside/standupforwwe/videos (last accessed Feb. 4, 2011).

The decision to mount the "Stand Up for WWE" program was made entirely by WWE and its personnel, and neither the program itself, the timing of it, how it should be conducted, nor

⁴ Transcripts of October 4, 2010, October 7, 2010 and October 12, 2010 Connecticut Senate Debates (Exhibits C to E).

⁵ Mr. McMahon's statement announcing the "Stand Up For WWE" program is the one quoted on page 2 of the Complaint.

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the content of the "Stand Up for WWE" program were discussed between the WWE personnel involved or the staff of Linda McMahon's campaign. McMahon Aff., ¶¶ 7-11, Exh. A; Wilson Aff., ¶ 25, Exh. B. To defend itself and its reputation from the well-publicized attacks on the Company, WWE utilized the social media network to do so. WWE posted numerous videos on its website designed to give a more balanced presentation of WWE, and utilized its pages on Facebook, YouTube and the like to address the issues raised by the negative speech directed at WWE. None of that content advocated for the election or defeat of any candidate, but instead focused entirely on WWE's real history and the positive impact of the Company in the lives of its employees, its fans, and the broader community.⁶ The "Stand Up for WWE" program was a direct rebuttal to the negative attacks against the Company itself.

During the "Stand Up for WWE" program, videos were produced by WWE and posted on WWE's website of various elected officials who, on a bipartisan basis, had saluted WWE generally and its work on behalf of our armed services, including President Obama, former President George H.W. Bush, and other high profile politicians of both parties. Exhibit N, Video CD, at tracks 1-4; *see also* Stand Up for WWE Videos, [WWE.com/inside/standupforwwe/videos](http://www.wwe.com/inside/standupforwwe/videos). Similarly, a video was posted on WWE's website of various celebrities who had appeared on WWE programs attesting to the professionalism of WWE and their respective experiences with WWE. Exhibit N, Video CD at track 5; *see also* Transcript of "Celebrities Discuss Experiencing the Power of WWE (Exhibit L). Numerous employees filmed comments regarding their work at WWE and their pride in working there, and those testimonials were also posted on WWE's website. Exhibit N, Video CD at track 6.

WWE also posted its factual positions on issues involving WWE that had been distorted, embellished and at times manufactured during the campaign on its website as part of the "Stand Up for WWE" program.⁷ This was done under a section on WWE's website entitled "Setting the Record Straight." Therein, WWE posted its factual position on the various issues raised in attacks against WWE. Those position papers were drafted entirely by WWE personnel. Wilson Aff., ¶ 21, Exh. B.

⁶ Exhibit F, which attempts to catalog the full collection of Facebook messages, social media tweets and web videos posted during the "Stand Up for WWE" campaign, illustrates that the tone of the online campaign was to stage a robust response to attacks against the Company. A review of these extensive materials shows that at no time during the media campaign did WWE engage in any express advocacy on behalf of a candidate nor engage in electoral politics.

⁷ "Setting the Record Straight," <http://www.wwe.com/inside/standupforwwe/settingtherecordstraight> (last accessed Feb. 4, 2011) (Exhibit G).

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In its entirety, the "Stand Up for WWE" program was conceived and performed entirely by WWE and its personnel, and there was no coordination whatsoever with the Linda McMahon campaign staff or the candidate herself regarding the "Stand Up for WWE" program, nor any need for WWE to do so in order to respond to the speech directed against WWE. All of the ideas in the "Stand Up for WWE" program were devised and implemented and produced by WWE personnel without any input from the Linda McMahon campaign staff whatsoever. Wilson Aff., ¶ 25, Exh. B.

In sum, nothing said or done in the "Stand Up for WWE" program violated FECA or Commission regulations. The "Stand Up for WWE" program utilized the social network to get its responsive speech published and its side of the story told in order to protect its independent business interest. Indeed, the "Stand Up for WWE" program later received a noteworthy award for the "Most Creative Social Media Campaign" in 2010. See Wilson Aff., ¶ 23, Exh. B. WWE's social media program did not involve any express advocacy for or against either candidate, was pure responsive speech fully protected by the First Amendment, and was not coordinated with the campaign staff of Linda McMahon or Mrs. McMahon herself.

B. THE "FAN APPRECIATION DAY" IN HARTFORD

The second aspect of the Complaint centers on the "Fan Appreciation Day" event held in Hartford, Connecticut three days before the election. The Complaint alleges, again with no basis in fact, that the event "may represent [an] illegal coordinated campaign expenditure." Complaint at 3.

The decision to hold the event was made amidst the intense negative attacks against WWE. The decision to hold the event was one of many public relations decisions necessitated by the intense attacks on WWE. McMahon Aff., ¶ 12, Exh. A; Wilson Aff., ¶ 8, Exh. B. As stated by Mr. Zimmerman at the time and as quoted in the Complaint, the event was a non-political way of thanking fans and "putting up with everything that's been said about the company." Complaint at 2. The XL Center at Hartford was first contacted by WWE on or around September 23-24, 2010 regarding its availability, and the decision to hold the event was finalized on September 28, 2010. Wilson Aff., ¶ 9, Exh. B. The decision to hold the event in Connecticut was not in and of itself unusual.⁸ The event was, in all theatrical and dramatic

⁸ WWE hosts events every year in Connecticut. In 2010, it also hosted its SmackDown TV show at the Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, Connecticut on April 20; a Monday Night RAW TV show at the Harbor Yard in Bridgeport on June 21; and SmackDown on November 2 in

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respects, no different than the thousands of shows promoted and conducted by WWE throughout its corporate existence. There is no allegation that the event was used to advocate for the election or defeat of either senatorial candidate, and the event was purely a traditional show with no political content in it whatsoever. In fact, Vince McMahon appeared during the show and specifically said to the audience "[s]ome people may think I was going to talk about politics today, nothing could be further from the truth."⁹ Linda McMahon did not attend the event, and neither her name nor the senatorial race was mentioned during the show. McMahon Aff., ¶ 13-14, Exh. A.

C. THE BRIDGEPORT SMACKDOWN PROGRAM ON ELECTION NIGHT

The Complaint's last fanciful theme is that the WWE intended to suppress voter turnout by scheduling its SmackDown show for Bridgeport on election night. The sole factual basis for this politically-motivated and frankly ridiculous charge was that "WWE has not taped a SmackDown program in the state in the last six months."

This aspect of the Complaint is plainly outside the coverage of FECA and frivolous in any event. The WWE SmackDown program is filmed each week. Like WWE's other weekly shows, it is taped at various locales throughout the country so as to maintain and promote a national fan base. WWE did the television taping to discharge contractual responsibilities, and the event was apolitical. The content of the show was developed in the normal course of business by those WWE employees who typically write and produce the program. McMahon Aff., ¶ 22, Exh. A.

Finally, we note the oddity of Ms. DiNardo's post-election concern about whether voters would turn out in Bridgeport, since the Complaint was filed after Election Day and she knew by then that voters had turned out in numbers far greater than anticipated by election officials. Not only was voter turnout in Bridgeport not suppressed, but state election officials so

Bridgeport. Since 2007, WWE has hosted its RAW or SmackDown TV show in Connecticut 14 times, and there are shows scheduled in 2011 in Connecticut.

⁹ Transcript of Vince McMahon message at Fan Appreciation event (Oct. 30, 2010), (Exhibit M); see also Posting of Christopher Keating, Capitol Watch Connecticut Politics, *WWE Show: Vince McMahon Encourages Fans to Vote Tuesday; Does Not Mention Linda's Run For U.S. Senate*, Hartford Courant blog, Oct. 30, 2010, available at http://blogs.courant.com/capitol_watch/2010/10/hartford-linda-mcmahon-never.html.

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underestimated the number of voters who turned out to vote that they failed to have sufficient ballots present in a widely publicized debacle that required the courts to order the polls to stay open. *See supra* note 1.

D. THE MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION TELEVISION SPOT

The Complainant wrongly states, again with no basis in fact to do so, that the commercial broadcast of television spots regarding WWE's work with the Make-A-Wish Foundation ("Make-A-Wish Ad") was part of the "Stand Up for WWE" program. However, the "Stand Up for WWE" program was a social network initiative conceived on October 14, 2010 and implemented on October 18. The corporate decision to air promotional ads, including the Make-A-Wish Ad, preceded by weeks the decision to do the "Stand Up for WWE" program on the internet. McMahon Aff., ¶ 29, Exh. A; Wilson Aff., ¶ 10, Exh. B. Those promotional ads not only dealt with Make-A-Wish, but also included an ad discussing the "Wrestlemania Reading Challenge" and an ad featuring female performers known collectively as the "WWE Divas" explaining why they enjoy working at WWE (collectively, "WWE promotional ads"). *See* Video CD at tracks 7-9 (Exhibit N); *see also* Transcript of Make-A-Wish Ad (Exhibit H); Transcript of Wrestlemania Reading Challenge Ad (Exhibit I); Transcript of WWE Divas Ad (Exhibit J). The decision to air the WWE promotional ads was yet another corporate public relations decision made in the face of unrelenting attacks on WWE ongoing in the election and was yet another non-political response.

As set forth in the affidavit of Michelle Wilson, the media plans for the WWE promotional ads were finalized on or about October 1, 2010. Wilson Aff., ¶ 11, Exh. B. The "Stand Up for WWE" social media program was not even discussed among WWE's decision makers until October 14, 2010. The WWE promotional ads, including the Make-A-Wish Ad, are completely devoid of any advocacy for or against any candidate and were produced solely by WWE personnel using WWE's historical copyrighted works. The Make-A-Wish Ad accurately depicts those individuals who were involved in the WWE's work with the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The content of each ad focuses on WWE public figures who are prominently involved in the causes depicted on-screen. For instance, the "Wrestlemania Reading Challenge" ad features more than ten WWE performers such as "Rey Mysterio" and "Kelly Kelly" promoting the Company's efforts to encourage children and teenagers to read. Similarly, the WWE Divas ad depicts several popular WWE female performers discussing the WWE's female-friendly policies and the performers' responsibility to serve as role models to young women. The Make-A-Wish Ad, which runs 32 seconds in length, depicts several images of popular wrestlers who have

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devoted time to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, such as "Triple H" and "The Miz." It includes scenes with the President of Make-A-Wish appearing with John Cena, a popular wrestler who has received the Make-A-Wish Foundation's highest honor for his work with them. Linda McMahon appears for a fleeting instant greeting a young boy in a wheelchair. The image of Mrs. McMahon which appears in that single promotional ad was in her role as the WWE's former CEO, and neither her name nor her candidacy were mentioned in the Make-A-Wish Ad.¹⁰ Video CD at track 9 (Exhibit N); see also Transcript of WWE's Make-A-Wish Ad (Exhibit H).

IV. THE LAW

The Complaint is premised on the notion that the actions and speech of WWE were prohibited corporate in-kind contributions to the campaign in the form of coordinated communications. Under Commission regulations, "[a] payment for a coordinated communication is made for the purpose of influencing a Federal election, and is an in-kind contribution under 11 C.F.R. § 106.52(d) to the candidate" 11 C.F.R. § 109.21(b)(1).¹¹ For a communication to be considered "coordinated," it must be: (1) paid for by a person other than the candidate, her authorized committee, a political party committee, or an agent of any of these entities; (2) satisfy the content standard; and (3) satisfy the conduct standard. 11 C.F.R. § 109.21.

A communication only satisfies the content standard if it is: (1) an electioneering communication; or (2) a public communication that either disseminates, distributes, or republishes campaign materials prepared by a candidate or her campaign, expressly advocates

¹⁰ The actual footage of Linda McMahon was recorded by WWE at Wrestlemania XXIV in Orlando, Florida on March 30, 2008.

¹¹ Following the 2010 election cycle, the Commission promulgated new coordinated communications regulations which went into effect on December 1, 2010 and apply to activity occurring after that date. See Final Rules and Explanation and Justification: Coordinated Communications, 75 Fed. Reg. 55947 (Sep. 15, 2010). Although the Make-A-Wish television spot was not a coordinated communication in any event, it is equally true that the new coordinated communications regulation excludes communications in which a federal candidate is clearly identified only in her capacity as the operator of a business that existed prior to the candidacy. Unless otherwise noted, all citations herein are to the Commission's coordinated communications regulations in effect during the 2010 election cycle.

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the election or defeat of a clearly identified federal candidate, or references federal candidates or parties. 11 C.F.R. § 109.21(c). An "electioneering communication" must: (1) be "publicly distributed" through a television station, radio station, cable television system, or satellite system; (2) refer to a clearly identified federal candidate; and (3) be targeted to the relevant electorate. 11 C.F.R. § 100.29(a). A public communication is defined as: "a communication by means of any broadcast, cable, or satellite communication, newspaper, magazine, outdoor advertising facility, mass mailing, on telephone bank to the general public, or any other form of general public political advertising. The term general public political advertising shall not include communications over the Internet, except for communications placed for a fee on another person's Web site." 11 C.F.R. § 100.26.

A public communication satisfies the conduct standard in Commission regulations if the communication is made: (1) at the request or suggestion of a candidate, her committee, a political party committee, or any of their agents; (2) with the material involvement of a candidate, her committee, a political party committee, or any of their agents; (3) after substantial discussion with a candidate, her committee, political party committee, or any of their agents; (4) through use of a common vendor; or, (5) through use of a former employee or independent contractor of a candidate, her committee, a political party committee, or any of their agents. 11 C.F.R. § 109.21(d).

V. DISCUSSION

A. The Complaint Makes No Factual Allegations of a Violation and Does Not Cause the Commission to Have a Reason to Believe a Violation Occurred

The Complaint should be dismissed on its face as containing pure conjecture and thus not providing the Commission a reason to believe a violation occurred. The Commission has the authority to investigate violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act only where there is a "reason to believe" that a violation has been committed. 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(2). In order to find a "reason to believe" that a violation occurred, a complaint must state "sufficient specific facts, which, if proven true, would constitute a violation of the FECA." Statement of Reasons, MUR 4960 at 1. Where a complaint does not state facts based on personal knowledge of the complainant, that complaint "must identify a source of information that reasonably gives rise to a belief in the truth of the allegations presented." 11 C.F.R. § 111.4(d)(2). In fact, mere speculation will not be accepted by the Commission as true. Statement of Reasons of Chairman Wold and Commissioners Mason and Thomas, MUR 4850. "Purely speculative charges,

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especially when accompanied by a direct refutation, do not form an adequate basis to find reason to believe that a violation of the FECA has occurred." Statement of Reasons, MUR 4960 at 3.

Under that standard, the Commission cannot find a reason to believe that a violation as described in the Complaint has occurred. The Complainant relies on baseless speculation, innuendo and reckless allegations of unsubstantiated charges. Nowhere does the Complainant claim to have any personal knowledge of Respondents' commission of a violation, nor provide an alternative source of information that supports the allegations, as required by the Commission. On its face, the Complaint does not offer any facts to show an actual violation, instead baldly asserting that it is "inconceivable" that a violation did not occur, largely because of Mrs. McMahon's past ties to WWE and marriage to Mr. McMahon. Repeatedly, the Complaint fails to state a violation but instead speculates that the Respondents' activities "may involve illegal coordination" and that "possible improper coordination" occurred. Complaint at 1.

Despite the baseless assertions in the Complaint to the contrary, all of the communications produced as part of WWE's response to the negative attacks on it were created without coordination from Linda McMahon or her campaign and because it was in the independent business interests of WWE to do so. Moreover, where Complainant "assumes" a violation to have occurred, Respondents directly refute the Complaint's assumptions with evidence showing that Respondents complied with Commission regulations as detailed below. The Commission should be reluctant to use the resources of the federal government to extend the media campaign orchestrated against the WWE during the 2010 election season, and loath to see its processes misused in an attempt to censor responsive speech. Instead, the Commission should find that it has insufficient basis in fact to find a reason to believe that a violation has occurred and therefore may not proceed with an investigation.

B. The "Stand Up for WWE" Program Was Not Coordinated

The Complaint states no facts that support a reason to believe that Respondents coordinated the "Stand Up for WWE" program, the live events, or the Make-a-Wish Ad with Linda McMahon, her Senate campaign or any of its agents. Respondents made all communications during the corporate response campaign in full compliance with FECA and Commission regulations by carefully obeying the coordinated communication regulations. Given that Respondents are able to directly refute the groundless charges in the Complaint, the Commission should honor its procedural regulations and summarily dismiss the Complaint.

1. The Content Being was Not Satisfied by the Corporate Response Campaign

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The "Stand Up for WWE" program and the live events discussed in the Complaint were neither electioneering communications nor public communications and therefore may not satisfy the "content prong" test as a matter of law. To satisfy the content prong required to prove that a communication was "coordinated," a communication must either be an "electioneering communication" or a "public communication." An electioneering communication must be "publicly distributed" by disseminating the communication through a television station, radio station, cable television system, or satellite system. 11 C.F.R. § 100.29(b)(3). A "public communication" is more broadly defined, however the definition specifically exempts any "communications over the Internet, except for communications placed for a fee on another person's website." 11 C.F.R. § 100.26. In defining the scope of this exemption in the rulemaking to implement *Shays v. Federal Election Comm'n*, 337 F. Supp. 2d 28 (D.D.C. 2004), *aff'd* 414 F.3d 76 (D.C. Cir. 2003), *reh'g en banc denied* (Oct. 21, 2005), the Commission explicitly stated that "a communication through one's own website is analogous to a communication made from a soapbox in a public square" and that therefore "there is no evidence . . . of a Congressional intent to regulate individual speech simply because it takes place through online media." 71 Fed. Reg. 18,594 (Apr. 12, 2006). This exemption explicitly extends to posting a web video online, so long as it is not placed on another person's website for a fee. *Id.* at 18,597.

The "Stand Up for WWE" program was a viral campaign primarily conducted through posting content to the WWE's own website, WWE.com, and through posting content to Facebook, Twitter and YouTube for free.¹² Only a few of the hundreds of communications that comprised the "Stand Up for WWE" program were placed on another website for a fee.¹³ The press release announcing the "Stand Up for WWE" program itself references the internet-based nature of this viral campaign using social networking sites. Press Release, World Wrestling

¹² We note that while certain of the web videos produced for the "Stand Up for WWE" campaign were ultimately aired during certain telecasts of WWE corporate programming, such as "WWE RAW" and "SmackDown," these videos likewise did not meet the "content prong" because they are not redistributions of campaign material, do not contain express advocacy, do not make references to federal candidates, and do not reference political parties. See 11 C.F.R. § 109.21(c).

¹³ The "Celebrities Discuss Experiencing the Power of WWE" spot was placed for a fee on People.com and TMZ.com. While this ad would be a public communication, it still does not meet the "content prong" because it is not a redistribution of campaign material, does not contain express advocacy, does not make a reference to a federal candidate, and does not reference political parties. See 11 C.F.R. § 109.21(c); Transcript of "Celebrities Discuss Experiencing the Power of WWE" (Exhibit L).

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Entertainment, Inc., Fans Stand Up for WWE, Oct. 18, 2010, *available at* http://corporate.wwe.com/news/2010/2010_10_18.jsp. The "Stand Up for WWE" program was conducted primarily online through free online media, the WWE made no "public communications" that reference a federal candidate or party as part of the "Stand Up for WWE" program and therefore, as a matter of law, Respondents could not have violated the content prong.

Moreover, the "Fan Appreciation Day" live event in Hartford, Connecticut, and the "SmackDown" episode taping in Bridgeport, Connecticut were corporate events held for fans similar to the hundreds of live events WWE holds each year. These events contained no advocacy component nor were they politically-related. These events do not fit within the constraints of the Commission's definition of a "public communication" or "electioneering communication."

Respondents also complied with the "content" standard in airing the Make-A-Wish Ad, based on the Commission's previous holding that, in certain cases, an advertisement may use a candidate-CEO's name without it being considered as a reference to a federal candidate. In a recent FEC Advisory Opinion, the Commission held that where references to a candidate-CEO, taken in context, refer to the business entity and not to a candidate, those communications should not be considered to refer to a clearly identified candidate under 11 C.F.R. 100.29(b)(2). AO 2004-31 (Darrow) (Sep. 10, 2004). The Commission further stated that while it has not adopted a blanket exemption for such business-related communications in crafting its regulations, that "does not preclude the Commission from making a determination that the specific facts and circumstances of a particular case indicate that certain advertisements do not refer to a clearly identified Federal candidate and, hence, do not constitute electioneering communications." *Id.* Here, in all the WWE communications made necessary by the attacks directed at WWE, the Complaint identifies only one instance of a communication which contained a likeness of Linda McMahon, which was on-screen for only one second. This single promotional ad made no reference to Linda McMahon's candidacy or the broader Senate campaign; instead, the advertisement only illustrated the company's legendary involvement granting "wishes" with the Make-a-Wish Foundation for more than twenty years. Under the Commission's holding in *Darrow*, the WWE's Make-a-Wish Ad did not meet the "content prong" for airing its historically accurate, copyrighted footage featuring its previous CEO for a fleeting instant in the context of a corporate response campaign.

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2. The Conduct Prong was not satisfied by the Corporate Response Campaign

Respondents did not satisfy the "conduct prong" of the Commission's coordination regulations with any of their actions related to the WWE corporate response campaign. At no point does the Complaint make a single factual assertion that alleges a violation of the conduct prong, and as shown below, Respondents can refute each aspect of the relevant regulations that show conduct indicative of a coordinated communication.

a. There Was No Request or Suggestion by Linda McMahon, Her Campaign, or Their Agents

The Complaint makes no factual allegations asserting that Respondents' communications were made at the request or suggestion of Mrs. McMahon, her campaign or an authorized agent thereof. The Commission defines the "request or suggestion" prong narrowly. For instance, in promulgating its regulations, the Commission explained that a coordination finding will not result "where a payor 'merely informs' a candidate or political party of its plans. Rather under the . . . rule, a candidate or a political party will have accepted an in-kind contribution only if there is assent to the suggestion." 68 Fed. Reg. 421, 432 (2003). This narrow standard defines the rule: the request or suggestion to make a communication must be overt and delivered from the candidate, her campaign committee, or their respective agent.

The Complaint neglects to make any effort to present facts relevant to its assertions, other than broadly stating that the candidate "maintains a close personal, familial, and financial connection to the WWE." Complaint at 3. Nowhere does the Complaint allege that Linda McMahon, her campaign, or an agent thereof made any requests or suggestions to her husband or the WWE to make any communications on behalf of the campaign. The Complainant conceded as much in a description of "Stand Up for WWE." Rather than make a direct allegation, the Complainant unconvincingly stated that it was "inconceivable" that the "Stand Up for WWE" program defending the corporation against allegations made daily in popular news media and blogs was *not* made "in coordination with Linda McMahon's Senate campaign."

Despite this empty assertion, the reality is that WWE is a publicly traded media and entertainment company which has for decades launched media campaigns to promote events, its celebrities, and the company itself. WWE and Vince McMahon needed no prompting or assent from the McMahon for Senate campaign to defend itself from unbalanced and unfair attacks, nor did they seek it. The WWE has, in its corporate existence, dealt with adverse media coverage before, knows how to defend itself, and employs the personnel to do so. WWE wholly produced the corporate responses without any request or suggestion to do so from Linda McMahon, her

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campaign, a political party, or any of their agents. The WWE knew the issues that had been raised against the organization and responded with the resources of its own organization to address those issues.

b. There was No Material Involvement by Linda McMahon or Her Campaign

The Complaint failed to show any material involvement by Linda McMahon or her campaign. To meet the material involvement prong of the coordination regulations, a candidate, authorized committee, or its agents must be "materially involved" in decisions about a public communication, including the (1) content of the communication; (2) intended audience; (3) means or mode of the communication; (4) specific media outlet used; (5) timing or frequency of the communication; or (6) size or prominence of a printed communication or duration of a communication by means of broadcast, cable or satellite. 11 C.F.R. § 109.21(d)(2). Again, however, the Complaint failed to assert anything beyond mere speculation that coordination may have occurred.

If, in fact, the Complaint would have the Commission believe that where a familial tie exists, coordination must have occurred, the Commission has previously rejected that argument. The Commission has never found that illegal coordination must occur simply as a result of family relationships or business relationships between two parties. *See, e.g.*, Statement of Reasons of Commissioners Hunter, McGahn and Peterson, MUR 6277 (Kirkland) (Jan. 28, 2011) ("The Commission's coordination regulations do not require heightened scrutiny to situations involving familial ties or other personal relationships, and we decline to do so here."); ("Nor can we find reason to believe coordination occurred merely because Robert Kirkland is the candidate's brother. Indeed, the Commission has made clear in related contexts that a mere family relationship is not enough to establish an agency relationship or otherwise support an inference of coordination."). Instead, the Commission should analyze whether a candidate was materially involved in the direct communications at issue. MUR 5754 (MoveOn.org Voter Fund). To find coordination, the Commission held in its Explanation and Justification that a candidate's or authorized committee's activity rises to the material involvement level only after sharing material "information about plans, projects, activities, or needs with the person making the communication." 68 Fed. Reg. 434 (Jan. 3, 2003).

Such material involvement simply did not occur regarding the "Stand Up for WWE" program, or the other matters set forth in the Complaint. The corporate response campaign was driven by WWE's corporate responsibility to speak directly to the world regarding the Company. As the Complaint itself stated, Vince McMahon's videotaped message to launch the "Stand Up for WWE" program stated that it was to refute "negative and inaccurate attacks on our

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company." Complaint at 2. As he explained, "Stand Up for WWE" would "[reach] out directly to you, the WWE universe, our fans, to provide the real facts about WWE." Complaint at 2. As he further explains in his affidavit, the timing and scope of the "Stand Up for WWE" program and the "Fan Appreciation Day" were driven by the timing of the well-publicized attacks on the WWE, as well as the feeling that its fans and employees needed to hear a positive response to these attacks. McMahon Aff. at ¶¶ 6, 12, Exh. A. As is shown, the WWE's responses were conducted without input from Linda McMahon or her campaign. As a result, there is no reason to believe that the material involvement standard has been met.

c. There Was No Substantial Discussion with Linda McMahon or Her Campaign

The substantial discussion test is only satisfied if a communication is "created, produced or distributed after one or more substantial discussions about the communication." 11 C.F.R. § 109.21(d)(3). A discussion is "substantial" if "information about the plans, projects, activities, or needs of the candidate, authorized committee, or political party committee that is material to the creation, production or distribution of the communication is conveyed to a person paying for the communication." 11 C.F.R. § 109.21(d)(3).

Again, the Complaint makes no specific allegations of substantial discussions, as defined by the Commission, relevant to the "Stand Up for WWE" program, or the other matters complained of by Ms. DiNardo between Mr. McMahon or anyone at WWE and Mrs. McMahon, her campaign, or an agent thereof. Where a Complaint relies on such speculation and innuendo to assert such a claim, the Commission has summarily dismissed such Complaints in the past. Factual and Legal Analysis in MUR 5750 (Laffey U.S. Senate) at 6 (Jun. 21, 2007) (finding no reason to believe given that the complainant based allegations on speculative inferences of coordination rather than on specific facts).

Given that the Complaint is unsupported by any facts to back up its assertion of coordination – and fails to allege that a substantial discussion about the communications ever occurred – there is no reason to believe that the substantial discussion standard has been met.

Moreover, as set forth in the affidavits submitted by WWE of Mr. McMahon and Michelle Wilson, the decisions to create, produce and distribute any communications were done entirely by WWE with the goal being to protect business and reputational interests of WWE that had nothing to do with the success of Linda McMahon's campaign.

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d. There Were No Common Vendors to Both the Company and the Campaign

The common vendor rule states that a violation only occurs if a number of conditions are met. In part, these are that: (1) the entity paying for the communication contracts with or employs a commercial vendor to create, produce or distribute the communication; and (2) the commercial vendor or its agents have a current or previous relationship with the candidate that puts the commercial vendor in a position to acquire information about the plans, projects, activities, or needs of the candidate's campaign. 11 C.F.R. § 109.21(d)(4).

The Complaint makes no attempt to satisfy this aspect and identifies no common vendor involvement in any of the speech by WWE questioned in the Complaint. In any event, the WWE produced all of the communications distributed by it, and Mr. McMahon and Michelle Wilson have submitted affidavits regarding the lack of use of common vendors. Since none of the vendors were used in common with the McMahon for Senate campaign, there is no reason to believe that the common vendor test has been met.

e. The WWE Did Not Use Any Former McMahon Campaign Employees or Independent Contractors in Connection with the "Stand Up for WWE" Program

The final element of conduct that can trigger a coordinated communication requires, in relevant part, that the person paying for the communication, or one of his employees, was an employee or an independent contractor of a campaign committee during the 120 days prior to the production of the communication. 11 C.F.R. § 109.21(d)(5). Again, the Complaint makes no attempt to satisfy this prong.

Moreover, and as described in the affidavit of Mr. McMahon, the WWE did not employ any former employee or independent contractor of the Linda McMahon for Senate campaign at the time of the production or distribution, or for the 120 days prior, of any "Stand Up for WWE" communication, the "Fan Appreciation Day," the SmackDown taping, or any other aspect of WWE's corporate crisis response campaign. Since none of these types of individuals were employed by the WWE for the duration of the production or distribution of the corporate response campaign, the former employee or independent contractor test has not been met.

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CONCLUSION

The Complaint states no facts that would cause reason to believe that Respondents made an expenditure or violated the Commission's coordinated communication regulations. Based on the baseless speculation and innuendo in the Complaint, directly refuted by testimonial evidence presented in this Response, the Commission should find that there is no reason to believe that either the WWE or Vince McMahon violated FECA or Commission regulations and should dismiss this matter.

Very truly yours,


Jerry S. McDevitt

JSM/emw

Enclosures

cc: Cynthia Bauerly, Chair
Caroline Hunter, Vice Chair
Donald McGahn, Commissioner
Matthew Petersen, Commissioner
Steven Walther, Commissioner
Ellen Weintraub, Commissioner

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Exhibit C
U.S. Senate Debate Transcript
Oct. 4, 2010

**October 4, 2010
Connecticut Senate Debate
Richard Blumenthal/Linda McMahon**

Live from the Belding Theater at the Bushnell, Fox Connecticut and the Hartford Courant present the debate for Connecticut's U.S. Senate Seat, now here's our moderator, Fox News Channel Anchor, Bret Bair.

Bret Bair: Good evening from the Belding Theater at Bushnell in Hartford Connecticut, I'm Bret Bair, on special report on Fox News Channel. Welcome to the Connecticut Senate Debate between the Democratic Candidate, Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, and the Republican Candidate, Linda McMahon. Fox Connecticut and The Hartford Courant bring you this debate tonight which will cover a wide range of topics from the economy, the foreign policy. Joining me are two esteemed panelists. Fox Connecticut Reporter, Laurie Perez, and Hartford Courant Capitol Bureau Chief, Chris Keating. Now, once asked a question, the candidates will have 90 seconds to answer each direct question followed by 30 seconds each in rebuttal. Timekeepers from the Yale Debate Association are watching the clock for us tonight. They will signal the candidates. The order has been determined by a coin toss. The specific subjects and questions were chosen by Fox Connecticut and the Hartford Courant and have not been shared with or cleared by either campaign. The audience here in the hall has promised to remain quiet. We're going to keep them to that. No cheers, applause or outbursts of any kind. Welcome to you both. The first question tonight will be directed to Mr. Blumenthal. Fox Connecticut and the Hartford Courant solicited for questions and readers, questions from readers and viewers. This one comes from Dawn Tanarowitz of Ellington, and we thought it was a good way to start out the debate tonight. For you Mr. Blumenthal, he asks, how has your public elected office experience without any business experience prepared you to be a Senator? One minute and thirty seconds sir.

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Richard Blumenthal: Thank you. I have stood up for the people of Connecticut over 20 years fighting for them tenaciously and fighting for them tenaciously and fighting for their interests, putting them first. And I have a plan that contradicts what we've been seeing in Washington, which hasn't been listening. It is a plan based on my experience for reviving our economy, putting people back to work. First, making sure that small businesses have the loans and capital they need. Tax deductions, as well as payroll exemptions and better trade policies to help them. And I will fight for them in Washington, making use of that experience as a public official. Second, more manufacturing and aid for manufacturing that is absolutely necessary. Buy American is a policy that I will fight for in Washington, again, using my experience as a public official, fighting for Connecticut. And third, ending the tax breaks for corporations who send jobs overseas. Very important that someone with that experience standing up for Connecticut and fighting for Connecticut. To be there to change those trade policies. Connecticut be there to change those trade policies. Particularly, currency manipulation by China. My opponent has a very different approach. She would take us back to the policies that led us to these problems including the bailout. She supported it. I opposed it and a middle income tax cut which I believe is absolutely necessary for economic revival, I would give people a middle income tax cut now without holding it hostage to a tax cut for the wealthiest, 2% of country.

Bair: Mr. Blumenthal, thank you. Mrs. McMahon, as everyone know, you helped build a business with your husband and family. You went on to be CEO of that business, the WWE. Mr. Tanarowitz wants to know how has your business experience without any public elected office experience prepared you to be a Senator, mam.

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Linda McMahon: Thank you very much, Bret, and thank you for the question this evening. I would also like to welcome our audience and the audiences watching home. Thank you very much for joining us. This election is about very clear choices and in very different philosophies. On the one hand you have my opponent who has been in government all of his life, and that is his position. He's about going government. I'm about going the economy. He's about raising taxes and sending it to Washington. I want taxes. Our want our money to stay in the hands of our families and those who create jobs. And so when Mr. Blumenthal is talking about middle class tax cuts and then holding them hostage that's just not true and he knows it. What I don't want to see is us to raise taxes on anyone. And if we raise taxes on small businesses, we are absolutely going to crimp not only their growth job creation but that will impact the middle class. I'm saying that in a time of recession, let's not raise taxes on anyone because we have to focus on making sure that small businesses that create 70% of the jobs in this country will have the ability to grow and to create jobs because if we handcuff them and continue to suppress our economy, we won't get our economy back on track. The government doesn't know how to create jobs. We have to let small businesses create jobs and that's what I will bring onto Washington with my business experience.

Bair: Mr. Blumenthal you have thirty seconds to respond.

Blumenthal: People create jobs. Small businesses create job. Seventy percent of all jobs, new jobs are created by small business and my plan would aide small businesses in creating jobs by targeting those tax cuts to small businesses, tax deductions, tax cuts for new hires, payroll tax exemptions, start-up costs to be deducted. A series of measures without holding hostage a middle income tax cut to the wealthiest 2% receiving one, I would vote

immediately, and I'm the only candidate here who would vote immediately for middle class tax cut.

Bair: Mrs. McMahon.

McMahon: Well they keep saying middle class tax cut but I'm absolutely saying that we shouldn't raise taxes on anyone. And what will happen under Mr. Blumenthal's plan is that about 12-1/2 billion dollars will leave the State of Connecticut to go to Washington so they could spend it. You know what folks, I'm for keeping it here. I don't want to send it to Washington. Let's hang onto our own money. You keep it in the hands of those businesses that do create jobs. Let's not raise taxes on anyone. We're in a recession. Let's make sure that small businesses have the opportunity to grow and that they can create those jobs.

Bair: Now over the last few weeks, Connecticut voters have seen you attack each other on the airwaves. Many times. Many, many times. We wanted to ask some questions related to those ads and for that here's Fox Connecticut's, Laurie Perez, with those questions. Go ahead.

Laurie Perez: Thank you, Bret. Mrs. McMahon on Friday the Blumenthal campaign released its latest ad. Let's take a look at it.

AD: Linda McMahon is everywhere but will she be there for you? She took \$10 million dollars from the State to create jobs but fired 10% of her workers. Her business is under investigation for failing to pay Social Security, Medicare or Unemployment. She took home \$46 million dollars and now she's talking about lowering the minimum wage.

Perez: I'm guessing you would take umbrage with the depiction of your business as that way. Tell me what's wrong with that.

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McMahon: The first thing let me say categorically that is wrong and absolutely false and is incorrect in this ad is that I would consider reducing the minimum wage. That's a lie. You know that's a lie. I never said it and it's in your ad and boy, that's just wrong. Let's take that off the table. Mr. Blumenthal and I actually shared the same thought relative to raising the minimum wage. We both said we need to take a look at it. He knows that's wrong. I never said that in an interview but it made it into the ad real quick. As to the fact that WWE certainly has had tax incentives, yes, it does and I encourage the State of Connecticut to continue to offer tax incentives to small businesses so that they can grow. WWE took tax incentives and grew about 52 jobs in it's Digital Media Division, and I'm very pleased with that. Over the course of the last twenty-eight years, WWE has grown by about twenty jobs a year for the past twenty-eight years, and we need more that in Washington. We need people who know how to create jobs. We need people who walked in those shoes. We also need people who've experienced when things aren't so good. I've been bankrupted. I've come back from bankruptcy. I've had an opportunity because of the American dream in this country to grow and to experience what a lot of our folks here in the state are experiencing now. Mr. Blumenthal doesn't have that experience. He's been on the Government payroll all his life.

Perez: Mr. Blumenthal, just today the McMahon team started running a new ad about you. Let's see what it has to say.

AD: Would lie about serving in the war. We have learned something very important since the days I served in Vietnam. Dick Blumenthal lied again, and again. When we returned, we saw nothing of this gratitude. He covered one lie with another.

Perez: Do you regret not more fully explaining how or why you made those misstatements and also, why didn't you serve in Vietnam?

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Blumenthal: Let me say again, Laurie, as I said before. There is nothing new in this ad and there's nothing new about McMahon's attack on me. She spending millions of dollars on it, and everybody knows it because they've been seeing it in their mailboxes. But as I said before, I'm proud of my military service. On a few occasions, out of hundreds, when I commented on it, I described it inaccurately and I regret it and I take full responsibility for it. It was not intentional but that is no excuse. And I want to say that I am sorry, particularly to our veterans, and most especially to our Veterans of Vietnam. But I'm going to continue to fight for veterans, and I have championed their cause over twenty years. The fact of the matter is, I take accountability for my mistakes. My opponent has not done so. She took \$10 million dollars meant to create jobs and then laid off 10% of her workforce and took home \$46 million dollars. That is a fact. When she was asked by reporters about minimum wage and whether to cut it, she said she would have to look at it. I would never say such a thing. My answer would have been no, absolutely not, we will cut minimum wage. People are struggling economically in our state and in our nation.

Perez: Mrs. McMahon you have thirty seconds.

McMahon: Mr. Blumenthal knows very well that when I was talking about taking a look at and considering it was relative to an increase in minimum wage and that's a mischaracterization. I just won't stand for his mischaracterization of that. And I do think, Mr. Blumenthal, if you understood about how business works and how tax incentives work in the state, you know tax incentives aren't \$10 million dollars. They're tax incentives that once you've made an investment, once you've laid out the money, you get credit for reducing your tax liability. I didn't take \$10 million from the state. If you knew anything about business, you'd know that.

Perez: Mr. Blumenthal.

Blumenthal: Well I know more about business than Ms. McMahon may think. Having been in my job for twenty years and enforcing the law against businesses as well as others. I know that when you take tax credits meant to create jobs and then cut your workforce but 10% and take home \$46 million dollars, something's not wrong with this picture about a so called job creator, and that's what Connecticut wants. Someone who will keep promises and put people above profits. Put the people of Connecticut above profits.

Bair: Okay, time. Our next question is from Chris Keating. Chris.

Chris Keating: The biggest issue of the year is the struggling economy and so we would like to ask you both about that. Mr. Blumenthal as you've said here, you've called for middle class tax cuts but the democratic leaders of both the House and Senate in Washington have decided to postpone any votes on tax cuts until after the elections. Was that decision by the democratic leaders wrong?

Blumenthal: I believe that we should have voted and the Congress rather should have voted right a way before going home. I would have preferred as other members of our delegation would have preferred to have that vote sooner rather later because our middle income families are struggling, and we need not only middle income tax cuts now without waiting for the wealthiest 2% to receive tax cuts as my opponent has said and should, but also programs that build small businesses provide them with a capital they need to expand. We need better trade policies so that we can export more from Connecticut. My opponent has taken the position that those middle income tax cuts should be held hostage. I believe that tax cuts should go to those small businesses because they need them and we should be supporting small businesses by targeting with the benefits that we think they deserve so that they can create the jobs that we so

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vitaly need in our state and our country, and we need to preserve the minimum wage. We also, by the way, in my view, should make a promise on this campaign trail to preserve Social Security not impose a means test, not impose any age eligibility raise and make sure that we keep our promises to preserve Medicare guaranteed benefits at their present level. My opponent says not appropriate for the campaign trail. I believe it is. I make that pledge.

Keating: Mrs. McMahon with 10% unemployment in an ailing economy more and more workers are being forced into minimum wage jobs. You said a second ago that you've been mischaracterized about the minimum wage and what you didn't say: Can you tell us exactly what is your position on the minimum wage and what role does that play in getting economy back on track.

McMahon: Well we certainly, I would never advocate lowering or reducing the minimum wage. And that's not what I said. I said we need to take a look at whether or not we need to increase the minimum wage. Your Congress looks at this all the time. I'm not sure how long the legislation is once the minimum wage is increased but I know it's some period of time. I just think we need to always look at it and make sure it's in the right economic frame. But I never said we'd reduce it, we shouldn't reduce it so I want to take it off the table. I've got to take, I've got to go back to something that Mr. Blumenthal said. He keeps coming about that these taxes incentive to create jobs. Point of fact, WWE did create jobs, 52 jobs in it's Digital Media area, and that is something that I am very proud of. We were able to grow because we made the company stronger and, you know what, next year because of the restructuring that was done and the smart business that was done relative to WWE, and just let me just say layoffs are hard. You know they're really tough to do but sometimes you have to make those tough decisions in order for your company to move forward. And as a result of that today, WWE is

about at the same level it was before the layoffs in 2009. And because of tax incentives that are moving forward and the new initiative of WWE network will add about 100 to 140 employees next year.

Keating: Mr. Blumenthal.

Blumenthal: The record will show that when my opponent was asked, would she cut the minimum wage, she said she would have to look at it. The record will show incontrovertible that that is so. And I would have said absolutely not. And I am glad to hear that WWE is hiring now that we are in good times after she's left company but in tough times when the chips were down, 10% of her workforce went without jobs and she's continuing to send jobs overseas by buying merchandise there.

Keating: Mrs. McMahon.

McMahon: Well, Mr. Blumenthal, you know, you did reference before about my taking money home and I'll tell you what, we will take about I won't let you count my money and I won't talk about the fact that your family owns the Empire State Building. So we certainly at WWE look in every instance to create jobs here and I'm really proud of the Digital Media growth and the new television network that will happen next year which, by the way, has been on the drawing board for a couple of years.

Keating: Okay, next question is about the stimulus package. Mrs. McMahon you talk often about your opposition to the stimulus in \$787 billion dollar stimulus package. You've said it's too expensive and special interest driven. Well you also pointed to the stimulus as one of the reasons the country needs a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. Now, if that passed, it would require either huge spending cuts either or massive tax increases, possibly both. Can you name two specific programs you would cut outside of

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attacking the waste and fraud and various agencies. Two specific programs you would get rid of and what's specific taxes you would increase.

McMahon: Well, let me say, first of all that I think the stimulus did not work because the money never got into the hands of the private sector into the small business owners that could create jobs. Government grew. Government jobs grew like this. Private sector jobs went like this. The stimulus was suppose to prevent unemployment from going above 8%. Well it's about over 9-1/2%. Nationally it's also just about that high here in the State of Connecticut. So I want to be sure and be clear that stimulus money doesn't work. What we really need to do is to take the balance of the unspent stimulus money and pay down our debt. We are spending a billion dollars a day to pay debt service on our debt. That's one way we can really decrease our expenses. If we paid down our debt. I think the stimulus money also was going to create a lot of infrastructure jobs and I've talked to mayors and first selectment here in Connecticut that absolutely didn't see that money. The red tape to try to get it was unbelievable. It just didn't work. So why would we have more stimulus today. Let's take that money, pay down the debt, reduce the debt and therefore, we'd start chipping away at the deficit. I also think that we should roll back our non-defense discretionary spending to 2008 levels. I think we should cap government hiring, government wage increases and, as I said before, take the balance of stimulus and pay down our debt and we'd be a long ways towards reducing our deficit.

Keating: Mr. Blumenthal in August you were quoted as saying the stimulus was wrongly structured. And "I would have opposed the stimulus as it was structured." Now the stimulus package is, you know, also known as the recovery act. Received the votes of every democratic senator and all but seven democratic house members. Vice President Biden called it an absolute success one time. He's said the recovery act is working and is supporting job

creating project in every corner of the country. Yet, you say you would have voted against it.

What doesn't the Vice President understand now?

Blumenthal: With all due respect to the Vice President and I have great respect for him and the President. I would have opposed the bailout as well because it did too much for Wallstreet not enough for Main Street. My opponent supported the bailout in the same way the stimulus was too big without accountability and failed to provide money directly to road and bridge building, school building, other infrastructure projects that are necessary to put money in paychecks and people's pockets, create consumer demand, lead to more economic recovery, stimulate small business, inadequate accountability not enough restrictions on how the money was used and too big for those features. Now, I believe strongly, we need to cut spending. I think we need to rein in our national debt for our own sake and for our children's, and I would make some very specific cuts. I would end the sweetheart deal \$200 billion dollars in taxpayer money that goes to pharmaceutical drug companies because there is a bar, and absolute prohibition against negotiations on Medicare drug prices. I would end the tax breaks for corporations that send jobs overseas. Incredibly, they were awarded for sending jobs overseas. Again, more than \$200 billion dollars can be saved in that way. And the subsidies for big Ag business. Some of them don't even grow crops. I would end those subsidies. Tens of billions of dollars we can save, we must do it.

Keating: Mrs. McMahon, I was asking for two specific programs you would cut. I think I heard one. Do have two programs you would cut and what taxes you would increase?

McMahon: Well, first of all, I just want to address what Mr. Blumenthal talked about relative to my supporting the bailout. I think, you know, at the time that Congress voted

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on the bailouts, I would have done it holding my nose. Because quite frankly, I believed when the Secretary of the Treasury comes out and says we're on the verge of economic collapse, we better do something that we clearly ought to address that. So I would have held my nose and would not have supported the bailouts for GM, for the other car companies and I do think that Mr. Blumenthal has made a great case for the fact that Government cannot spend our money and account for it very well.

Keating: Okay, Mr. Blumenthal, stimulus not big enough or not fast enough?

Stimulus not fast enough but most important not accountable enough. We need Government to be accountable. As United States Senator, I would fight for the people of Connecticut. Put them first whatever the Vice President thinks about the program, the people of Connecticut come first to me just as they have throughout my career, and believe me, I have stood up to some pretty formidable foes, some very powerful special interest whether it's utilities, pharmaceutical drug companies, health insurers, big tobacco companies, I know how to fight for the people of Connecticut and I will do it.

Bair: Next question.

Perez: Alright, this is an online question coming from Roselyn Hoglan of South Windsor. She asked politics have become, are become increasing less civil with little regard or willingness to compromise. Are you willing to work with the other party and can you please give me an example where you agree or see merit in the position of the other side and are willing to cross party lines to promote? We will begin with Mr. Blumenthal.

Blumenthal: I see great merit in the opposition of many republicans to the bailout as it was structured then, as is it was inadequately designed as it was too big as it did too

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much for Wallstreet not enough for Main Street and I would have sided with republicans and democrats in the my work as Attorney General over twenty years. A lot of what I've done is to lead national coalition, whether it's against big tobacco or the fight for greater safety on the Internet. Republicans and democrats coming together and Connecticut's a small state but I boxed above my weight by reaching out to republicans as well as democrats and that's the kind of leadership that I think we need in Washington because there is too much acrimony based on partisanship, too much gridlock, Washington isn't listening and I believe I bring those qualities of leadership which my opponent simply has never shown because she has never had that experience to this great challenge, a historic challenge to fight for Connecticut's people and make sure that the next United States Senator from Connecticut stands strong against the special interest for the public interest.

Perez: Mrs. McMahon.

McMahon: Mr. Blumenthal would they be the special interests that are funding your campaign? I do believe that we need to reach across party lines. We absolutely have to that. I agree with Mr. Blumenthal, we are in gridlock. We absolutely must reach across party lines so that we can get something done. However, I do disagree with Mr. Blumenthal, as a CEO of a company; you have to negotiate many deals. You got to know how to drive consensus when necessary but you also have to hold the line when necessary. And the best deals that I ever did as CEO were the ones that both sides walked away from the table knowing they got some of what they wanted, maybe most of what they wanted but not everything they wanted. Because if the deal is too good for either side, you would know this, Mr. Blumenthal is lawyer, you either going to wind up back at the negotiating table or you're going to be in court because your not going to be able to live up to the terms and conditions of that contract. I think what we've seen

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in Congress when we had bipartisan effort on social security, on Medicare, it was a real bipartisan effort. What you did not see in Washington with the bipartisan debate was healthcare. It was a bad process. We wound up with a bad product. I think that is clear evidence of what happens when there isn't bipartisan debate and good ideas. There's good ideas on both sides of the aisle. Let's bring them together and move our country forward and move our state forward.

Perez: Mr. Blumenthal your response.

Blumenthal: Well I think my opponent knows a little about Washington because she hired lobbyist in Washington. Paid them \$1 million dollars to try to stop legislation that would impose penalties on companies that market sex and violence. I will give her that experience. I believe that she knows that I will stand strong against the special interest but if she doesn't, certainly the people of Connecticut do because no matter what the contribution, no matter how large, no matter who makes it, I will stand strong as I have over twenty years for the people of Connecticut's interests.

Perez: To you, Mam.

McMahon: We did, WWE did hire a government relations firm primarily sought to build the Smackdown Your Vote Program. The tribute to the troops program and to also to talk to them about how we would get our young people more involved in the voter program. So, yes, WWE has utilized government relations companies in Washington.

Bair: At time, the next question is actually the candidate question and this session of the debate, the candidates will ask each other a question and then they'll have time to respond and rebut. We start with Mr. Blumenthal.

Blumenthal: Thank you. Ms. McMahon, as you know, I'm a very strong proponent of a program called, "Buy America" which means federal tax dollars have to be used

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to buy American products. I have a program called, "Made in Connecticut." I believe with manufacturing jobs should be here. Why have you and WWE bought your products made in abroad in China, Pakistan and other countries?

McMahon: WWE like many other companies has sourced product outside of the United States because we do not have the kind of policies in place here that are conducive to manufacturing. I agreed with you. I think we can do better here in our country. We can do better by creating the environment to attract business. We can lower our corporate tax rate. You know we have the largest tax rate, corporate tax rate in the world at 35%. The average is 18%. We could go to Ireland; it's 12-1/2%. Let's make it conducive here in America to make things in America so that the prices will be so down that we can put people back to work. We have high labor costs, high energy costs. All of these things are what are contributing to driving prices up here in our country. And I believe that we need to do a better job so that we can have more jobs here in the United States but I also believe that we need to have markets where we can export our products because we are manufacturing here, we're exporting from our country that also drives our economy and keeps our prices down. So I am all for making product here in America. WWE has some products through our licensing company. Our toy company, Mattel, that they distribute all over the world but they don't make there toys here in America that that's not our job. We license them and pay taxes on all of the money that comes back to WWE. None of it is kept offshore.

Bair: Mr. Blumenthal you have thirty seconds.

Blumenthal: Cutting through all of what you just heard, the bottom line was benefited, more profits by sending those jobs in effect overseas by having the products made there. As the CEO of WWE, Linda McMahon, has to be held accountable for those choices that

deprived American workers of the jobs that were lost overseas by making those products there. And we need to assess each of the candidates here as to how they treat the voters of Connecticut by how they made these decisions and we need to hold them accountable.

Bair: Mrs. McMahon, thirty seconds, a little bit longer.

McMahon: Well I'm very proud of the fact that they have created over 600 jobs here in Connecticut. And over the past twenty-eight years created an average of twenty jobs per year. We need more of that in Washington. We need more of that here in our state and I think it's a great record, you know, to hold the, for you, probably how many jobs have you created?

Bair: That floor is yours, Mrs. McMahon, to ask the question for Mr. Blumenthal.

McMahon: Sort of a follow-up Mr. Blumenthal, you've talked about you want to incentivize small businesses. Tell me something, how do you create a job?

A job is created and it can be in a variety of ways by a variety of people but principally by people and businesses in response to demand for products and services and the main point about jobs in Connecticut is, we can and we should create more than by creative policies. And that's the kind of approach that I want to bring to Washington. I have stood up for jobs when they've been at stake. I've stood up for jobs at Altman Motors when GM wanted to shut down that automobile dealership. I stood up for jobs at Pratt & Whitney, when that company wanted to ship them out-of-state and overseas. I stood up for jobs at Stanley Works when it was threatened with a hostile takeover. I know about how government can help preserve jobs, and I want programs that provide more capital for small businesses, better tax policies that will promote creation of jobs, stronger intervention by government to make sure that we use the

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"Made in America" policies and "Buy America" policies to keep jobs here rather than buying products that are manufactured overseas as WWE has done.

Bair: Mrs. McMahon.

McMahon: Government, government, government. Government does not create jobs. It's very simple how you create jobs. An entrepreneur takes a risk. He or she believes that he creates a goods or service that is sold for more than it costs to make it. If an entrepreneur thinks that he can do that, he creates a job.

Bair: Mr. Blumenthal.

Blumenthal: And I don't differ. I'm not going to be an entrepreneur as a Senator. I will do my best to assist entrepreneurs in exactly the way I've just described which may not have been the answer that my opponent wanted but is the kind of answer that government needs to provide in tough times when our economy is struggling to revive rather than talking about cutting or looking at cutting the minimum wage.

Bair: The next question is question on Foreign Policy from Chris Keating.

Chris.

Keating: Mrs. McMahon the fighting in Afghanistan has been raging for years under multiple Presidents, both republican and democrat. How would you assess President Obama's strategy in Afghanistan and do you believe it is working?

McMahon: I going to answer that in just one second. Mr. Blumenthal don't insist one more time about the minimum wage. It's a lie. You can keep saying it but you're wrong.

Bair: You can answer the question now.

Laughter.

McMahon: In Afghanistan...

Laughter.

McMahon: I'm sure it's very low. I am mother and grandmother and I believe before we send our young men and women into harms way anywhere in the world, we should have a clear goal and a clear strategy in place. My concern relative to Afghanistan is that we have seen different strategies. I do applaud the fact that our President did put General Petraeus in charge in Afghanistan. He had great success in Iraq. I hope he will be able to have that success in Afghanistan. My fear, however, is that we have conflicting messages and conflicting strategies. We have a political strategy that says we're going start withdrawing in July of 2011. We have a military strategy that now says that we are increasing our troops and that we have a surge. It's certainly is confusing to me and one of the first things that I would like as a Senator have a detailed briefing on exactly what the goals and strategies are in Afghanistan because I think we need to make sure that our strategy is clear before we send our men and women in harms way. And then when we bring them home, we have to take care of our veterans and to make sure they have the benefits that they deserve.

Keating: Mr. Blumenthal what would you change about the President's strategy in Afghanistan if anything?

Blumenthal: I believe that the President must adhere to the timetable we have set despite some of the talk we've heard recently about varying on it. I think we should avoid an open-ended commitment in Afghanistan. We must continue the war on terror. We need to take the war to wherever the terrorists make safe havens whether it is in Pakistan or other countries but we must begin with withdrawing our combat troops in July of next year. I believe that the war on terror requires inventive and ingenious and aggressive means using Cyber attack, using

special operations, using means that make us more nibble and more aggressive and successful. But I believe the American people deserve that timetable at least to begin withdrawing our combat troops on that year on that timetable.

Keating: Mrs. McMahon.

McMahon: Well I surely agree with Mr. Blumenthal that we need to fight terrorism and to identify where it is and to hopefully always fight it, not on our shores, but somewhere else when that need arises. We have to have firm hand but we have to have a strong policy to do that.

Keating: Mr. Blumenthal.

Blumenthal: One area where we need to increase our capability is in some of the arms programs where Connecticut has played a leading role. I would reinstitute BF-22 Fighter Plane. I would protect the sub-building program which is so vital to our National Security. We should continue with that program not only because it's the right thing for our economy, but it is the right thing for our National Security.

Bair: The next question is about healthcare. We'll start with Mrs. McMahon. Mrs. McMahon you said you've would have voted against the Healthcare Bill. You repeated tonight that it's a bad product and that you want to repeal it and start over. Which portions of the Federal Law that is now Federal Law would you have in place, still remaining?

McMahon: Well, first of all, let me address that I do think it was a bad policy and, therefore, we have a bad product. We need to have bipartisan debate on something so important as healthcare which over 70% of our country, and I agree, that we do need healthcare reform. But what this bill did not do which was the intent of it to do was to bring down the cost of healthcare and to make sure there was broader coverage. And what I'm seeing is just the

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opposite. Premiums are going up. Taxes and small businesses are going up. It will be a squeeze on families. It's a squeeze on small businesses. And also what's happening is in this bill, we are cutting Medicare by a half a trillion dollars. Mr. Blumenthal had indicated when the bill was first passed, he praised the bill. He said that he thought there was a really good bill. Now he says it's a good first start. I don't think that starting out with premiums increasing a double digit and cutting Medicare payments to our seniors to the tune of a half of a trillion dollars is a good start. It's a bad bill. We need to repeal it and we need to start over again because we want to be able to provide insurance to many but I'm afraid with the reduced Medicare payments, we will continue to see doctors leave the profession or not take Medicare patients, and that is what is happening today. We really do need to look at that because we haven't at all costs need to protect our seniors.

Bair: Mr. Blumenthal you have said you supported the Healthcare Reform Law but it is only a first step. It's a good beginning but not the end. What do you see as the end sir?

Blumenthal: This bill recognizes some fundamental facts. No child in America should be denied healthcare because they are sick. No worker should be dropped from healthcare insurance after they get sick. No American family should go bankrupt paying for healthcare. This bill is a good start because it eliminates some of the abuses that I have fought pre-existing conditions again and again. And thousands of people coming to my office, I fight for them because the health insurance companies have denied coverage simply because they say they had a pre-existing condition or the doctor's out-of-network or the treatment is experimental. This bill ends those kinds of abuses, but we need to do better in controlling costs. Medical care costs are spiraling at five times the rate of inflation. I would end, for example, a provision in that bill supported by both republicans and democrats that provides a special giveaway for those

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pharmaceutical drug companies, prevents negotiations on Medicare rates. We need to eliminate waste and fraud. I see it because I go after it. As Attorney General, we have combined with States and the Federal Government to pursue healthcare, fraud and waste, and eliminate or recover millions of dollars for the State of Connecticut. And we need stronger measures to rein in premiums. Just recently, I tried to fight a 20% premium increase by Aetna. I have fought previous premium increases and I will do so again.

Bair: Mrs. McMahon.

McMahon: What would I think a couple of the first things we could have done with this healthcare reform in looking at reducing costs which were not addressed would have been tort reform. That was not, it was not put on the table and I do believe that would significantly bring down costs. Now our physicians spend so much time effort and money just making sure they're not going to get sued because they maybe have not repeated the test or whatever. So I think tort reform being able to buy our own insurance across state lines and allowing small businesses to group together to buy insurance would have brought the costs down.

Bair: Mr. Blumenthal you mentioned the insurance companies. Has this had a detrimental affect on this state since so many insurance carriers are here in Connecticut?

Blumenthal: Absolutely not and, by the way, there is a certain irony in my opponent talking about healthcare reform because she denies healthcare insurance to the wrestlers who work for and, in fact, her company's under investigation right now for improperly and illegally misclassifying those employees, denying healthcare insurance as well as dodging taxes for unemployment compensation, social security and Medicare. By the way, the bill did not cut Medicare. It cut Medicare Special Advantage which in no way cut the guaranteed benefits that seniors receive.

Bair: Done. Next question is from Laurie Perez. Laurie.

Perez: Connecticut and the Nation really has been stunned and then riveted by the sad facts of the Cheshire Home Invasion and the triple murder case. Two defendants stand accused. In fact just today the jury began deliberations in the Steven Hayes case. If convicted, he of course, faces the death penalty. How do you feel about the death penalty? Do you support it or not and why or why not?

Blumenthal: I support the death penalty. There are crimes that are so horrible and heinous that they merit it. And in my view, not speaking as a juror or a prosecutor, I believe that Mr. Hayes deserves the death penalty and certainly if any case cried out this one is it. I support it because it is a deterrent to certain kinds of crimes. For example, crimes against law enforcement officers, police, or fire fighters or others who risk their lives on our behalf. Correction officers, and I believe that it's a strongly merited punishment in some cases such as this one which are so absolutely horrific that they merit it.

Bair: Mrs. McMahon same question to you. Do you support the death penalty?

McMahon: I do, and I absolutely agree with Mr. Blumenthal and his assessment on it. But now I have to go back to something that you raised just in a prior question. You talked about the WWE contractors who don't have healthcare coverage. Indeed they do, and all the 600 employees at WWE have full benefits and coverage and the contractors have full health coverage for any accident they receive in the ring, whether they have surgery, or rehab—they are fully covered. So let's just make that clear. And I find it a little bit unusual maybe just a coincidence that in the 20 some years that WWE has been in Connecticut, it's never been investigated or fined, not relative to its independent contractors, and the only time it's been investigated was just after this campaign got going. So I'm not sure exactly why that might be. The only time

we've stopped by WWE is when you came to visit me and we had a cup of tea, so I would just like to make sure for those now who are listening the men and women who perform in the ring perform in that soap opera that is WWE as independent contractors their health and well being is so important to WWE. There's a full physical every year, cardio evaluation, concussion testing and a full a drug policy that is in place to prevent illegal drug use and to make sure that they are well cared for.

Perez: Mr. Blumenthal you are allotted 30 seconds.

Blumenthal: Thank you. As you well know, my jurisdiction is exclusively civil. The allegations against WWE seem to be criminal in nature. So it's no coincidence that my investigation has not covered them. I have no investigation, have never done an investigation because allegations about independent contractors are investigated by the department of labor and the department of revenue services and I have no knowledge about that investigation as being conducted by the state.

Perez: Mrs. McMahon go ahead.

McMahon: I have no comment.

Laughter.

Perez: All right.

Bair: The balance of the time. Back to the panelist, we return now to Chris Keating.

Keating: Mr. Blumenthal many in your party or some in your party have demonized the tea party calling them extremist and even sometimes whackos. How would you describe the tea party?

Blumenthal: You know I welcome anyone who wants to be involved in the political process. I think we all benefit when people of whatever view and commit their time and energy

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and their passion to be involved. And one of the great parts about this great campaign has been that we've enlisted the services of so many volunteers. We need those volunteers because I don't have any where near the \$50,000,000 that my opponent has committed to spend. She has already spent more than \$25,000,000 probably, and I welcome the kind of energy that is brought to this process by volunteers of whatever view and I've said again, again and again that my campaign maybe outspent but it won't be outworthed, and the people of Connecticut want an election not an auction.

Keating: Mrs. McMahon how do you describe the tea party, and do you welcome their support?

McMahon: Well, first of all I would just like to say, Mr. Blumenthal that I'm funding my campaign with money I've earned over these past years. I've earned every nickel of this money, and if I choose to invest in a campaign because I so fully believe that we need change, we need smaller government, we need to send not people who have been in government and life-long politicians to Washington, so I'm willing to spend my own money in this campaign. And I'm not accepting private interests because I want to have an independent voice when I go to Washington. So I said at the beginning I would fund the campaign with my own money, and I'm one of the people of Connecticut that can't be bought. I've been out every single day since I announced my candidacy a year ago. I've met and talked and listened to the people of Connecticut and they have told me so much and given me so many good ideas, and they've shared with me how they want to make sure that their senator stays connected with them and continues to listen once they go to Washington. So I'm very pleased with the work that I've put in for this campaign. Excuse me.

Keating: And you're view on the tea party?

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McMahon: My view on the tea party is I've also met with the tea party. Two or three factions of the tea party, I have found that their commitment and their passion to reduce spending, reducing the deficit, making sure that government is reduced and doesn't continue to grow. I have found that we are in large step in those particular issues. And I've enjoyed the meetings that I've had with them.

Keating: Mr. Blumenthal.

Blumenthal: This thing is a very important part of this process, and I've spent 20 years listening to people of Connecticut. There's a joke about Dick Blumenthal that if there's a garage door opening, he'll be there. And what I've heard is people are angry and upset, and I think the tea parties' views reflect that frustration, and it's not just them. It's about Washington not listening. And I want to go to Washington to make sure that Washington does better for people of Connecticut and in fact listens to all the people.

Keating: Mrs. McMahon.

McMahon: I have found at my meetings with the tea party to be informative and that they are very passionate and they do bring a good volunteer base to be helpful and I welcome their support for those areas that I think we find common ground. And that is smaller government, reducing taxes, reducing the deficit.

Bair: We have time for a quick lightning round. This is one-word answers and before the closing statements. Okay. Here it goes. First, you, Mr. Blumenthal. One word to describe Senator Chris Dodd.

Blumenthal: Not running.

Laughter.

Bair: That's two, we'll take it. Mrs. McMahon, same question.

McMahon: Retired.

Bair: Okay. Mr. Blumenthal, Red Sox or Yankees?

Blumenthal: Yankees.

Bair: Mrs. McMahon.

McMahon: Yankees.

Bair: Okay. And finally, Mr. Blumenthal, thin crust or thick crust?

Blumenthal: Uh, thin crust.

McMahon: Thin and crispy every time.

Laughter.

Bair: "We had some fun there in the lightning round." Okay. The candidates will now each have two minutes in closing statements that coin toss was determined at the beginning. The order, and Mrs. McMahon will go first. Mrs. McMahon.

McMahon: Again, thanks to our audience here this evening and to the audience watching at home. We appreciate you joining us for the debate. I'm running for the United States Senate because our economy is in shambles, people are out of work, our families are hurting, nest eggs have been devastated and there aren't enough people in Washington who know how to create jobs. And I want to make sure the American dream which I've had the privilege to live will continue to be there for my children, my grandchildren and for generations to come. Mr. Blumenthal has spent a good deal of time tonight talking about fighting for the people of Connecticut and making sure that you know that he has experience in government and clearly he does because he is a life-long politician and he has spent his adult life on the government payroll. I'm a mother, a grandmother, I'm a wife, and I'm a business woman. A business woman who has created jobs. A business woman who has juggled a career and family

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and neither of those jobs is easy. And I want to go to Washington because I think we need more people in Washington who can understand the plight of those workers and who have created jobs. I've known lean times, and I've known prosperity. I've been bankrupt, and I've come back. And it is important for the American dream that we focus on these particular issues. This election you will have a clear choice. You're going to have a choice between someone who's been a life-long government person, or someone who has been in the private sector creating jobs, someone who wants to grow government. I want to grow the economy. Someone who wants to raise your taxes and send money to Washington so they can spend it. Well, I want to keep money in the hands of families of Connecticut so they can spend it as they see fit. And as your senator, I want that young woman who is a single mom, lost her job, and looks at me and says, "don't forget about us", veterans fighting against bureaucracy, and teachers fighting to be innovative. I want them to know that I will be their champion, and that our seniors will be fully protected for their benefits.

Bair: Mr. Blumenthal.

Blumenthal: Thank you. And thank you to Fox and Courant. Thank you all for being here and for listening to us tonight. Elections are about choices, and this election offers a very clear stark choice. Linda McMahon says she is different, and she is different from me. I've spent my life, and it's been my life's work trying to help people. Cathy Platt is here tonight. I worked with her to save her automobile dealership when GM wanted to shut it down and put her people out of work. Billy Clark is here tonight. I stood with him and other hundreds of Pratt workers saving their jobs when Pratt wanted to end, really end, their contract and Laura Aston as well. She came to me when her insurance company wouldn't cover baby formula essential to her child's life. I am proud of my record in public service. I am proud that I have helped people

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build their futures. My opponent has built her fortune. She has put profits ahead of people even now she refuses to recognize that steroids can cause long-term health consequences. She's on the side of the bailout, the Wall Street Bank supported it. I opposed it. I think more of that aid should go to small businesses on main street not Wall Street. I oppose the tax breaks that reward businesses for sending jobs overseas. She stands with the corporations. I think more of those small businesses deserve breaks. And I think the middle income families struggling to make ends meet need and deserve tax breaks now. We should not wait as my opponent would do for the wealthiest 2% to receive their tax breaks. You can count on it to be on your side to fight in Washington against those special interests to cut spending when its wasteful and always to put you first.

Bair: Mr. Blumenthal and Mrs. McMahon. Thank you very much. That ends tonight's debate. We'd like to thank the folks here at the Bushnell Theater as well as Fox Connecticut and the Hartford Courant and panelists--Laurie Perez and Chris Keating. There's a gubernatorial debate tomorrow night, same time and channel moderated by my Fox News colleague, Carl Cameron. We leave you tonight with a few words from the CEO president and publisher of the Hartford Courant, Richard Graziano. Good night.

Richard Graziano: Thank you for watching tonight's debate for Connecticut's U.S. Senate seat. Fox Connecticut and the Courant believe in an open, accessible and honorable democratic process. We believe in every citizen's right to know that a healthy democracy requires an informed and engaged electorate. Tomorrow evening we'll broadcast the gubernatorial debate live from the Bushnell from 7 to 8 p.m. as Tom Foley and Dan Malloy square off on the issues. And, lastly, we encourage you to get out and vote on November 2.

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Exhibit D
U.S. Senate Debate Transcript
Oct. 7, 2010

**2010 Connecticut Senate Debate
Richard Blumenthal/Linda McMahon**

**10/7/10
CT News 12**

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Linda McMahon: ...that they should get 100% tax credit from where that development and once the technologies in place and they are burning their fuels cleaner that they would have a preferred tax rate for getting there. So it's a way to incentivise businesses to move from carbon burning fuels to cleaner technologies. However, currently our country is still 85% dependent on carbon fuels and I do think at this particular time we need to continue to environmentally, safely explore our own resources here, both oil and natural gas. I do think that with our offshore drilling we should continue to do that in a very safe and environmentally prudent way. I think we should continue to explore for our natural gas because we will be then economically less dependent on foreign countries, some of whom are today allies but I don't think we can always count on them being allies. So while we have the movement to move to cleaner burning fuels. I think we should continue to explore our own natural resources here both to be economically independent from our foreign sources but also because it's just cheaper. We have great resources here. We have enough natural gas that is projected to take into the next 100 years but I do think we have to do this in an economically sound way and what we have seen with our offshore drilling, with the BP disaster that we had, we saw that there was a company that clearly bypassed safety regulations and took shortcuts. We must insure that does not happen but I don't think that the moratorium that's been placed now in the Gulf is prudent because it is costing lives and not lives, it is costing jobs and sending those jobs outside of the United States. I think the states that are involved with the offshore drilling need to have their summits...

Moderator: Let's let Mr. Blumenthal ...

McMahon: And um, okay, one sec...and uh, and then we will move towards an economic and environmentally prudent way to develop those sub-fuels.

Moderator: Mr. Blumenthal.

Clapping....

Moderator: Thank you. Let me, before you begin, if I could ask our enthusiastic supporters to save their enthusiasm for the end of the debate. Thanks, Mr. Blumenthal.

Richard Blumenthal: Thank you and I want to join in, thanking all of you for being here today and Channel 12 for hosting us and all of our panelists and participants. We need a national energy policy and that policy must create jobs, cut utility costs, in effect, make polluters pay and reward Connecticut for being a relatively clean fuel burning state. We should be very proud of the fact that we are one of the cleanest burning fuel states in the country and as Attorney General, I pursued pollution in other states and I believe a national energy policy must make those polluters in other states, whether it's CO2 or other forms of emissions, pay for contaminating our air and we can create new jobs. For example, at the fuel energy company that I visited yesterday, there are eight projects waiting in the state of Connecticut. They are not going forward because there's insufficient financing for them and so we can provide not only incentives but support and financing to create green jobs in our state and cut utility costs. The cost of utilities and energy in Connecticut are just too high for ordinary consumers, for small businesses and other business we are one of the highest electricity costs states in the entire United States and over the course of my two decades as Attorney General, I have fought those energy interests and helped to cut \$2 billion dollars from rate hikes that otherwise would have gone into effect and we must continue the battle against those special interests that not only

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create CO2 pollution, and we need to fight it but also raise our utility costs. Now, Cap in Trade is dead, Cap in Trade died in the last Congress. Let's be clear, I wrote a letter to the Congress supporting a bill that incorporated Cap in Trade concept. I've also advocated changes in the bill that would have made it better for Connecticut. It is not an energy tax, I oppose a national energy tax and I will continue to steadfastly, oppose a national energy tax. The claim that Cap in Trade is a national energy tax, is based on phony numbers from a right wing group that are designed to scare people and protect the energy interests, special interests, that I have fought relentlessly over the years. My opponent and I have a very different view on drilling. Many of you probably received a mailing from her during the height of the BP crisis, you've received a lot of mailers from my opponent so you may not remember this one but it essentially advocated more drilling and continue drilling even in the mits of that environmental crisis. I support a moratorium on new projects for drilling until we determine what the causes are of the BP catastrophe.

Moderator: Mr. Blumenthal, Mrs. McMahon would you like to drill deeper on this?

Laughing.

McMahon: Uh, yes and thank you very much. Um, if we'd, in Connecticut I think their have been some progress made towards a clean energy, however, at what cost. Connecticut does have the second highest energy costs in the country. It has driven jobs out of our state combined with labor costs, combined with high taxes, and that's when I talk about balancing economic and environmental causes, that's exactly what we need to do. Mr. Blumenthal, you said Cap in Trade is dead. Well, you might need to check with President Obama. Cause he's certainly has said that next year it will be one of his primary focuses is to

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make sure that the Cap in Trade is put back in place, he's going to focus on it, uh, and you took a position of, first you sent the letter supporting Cap in Trade and then when you were asked in the media if you supported Cap in Trade you said no. Then you said Cap in Trade was dead and now I just think we need to know where you stand on that particular issue and for you to say that these are right wing think tank numbers, well check with President Obama, he is the one that said when he first talked about Cap in Trade, we will necessarily see electricity costs skyrocket. His word was skyrocket. So put the numbers aside. We're going to see increased costs in our utilities, it is a consumption tax, because if you tax companies that are producing those emissions, they will pass the tax onto consumers. Let's incentivise companies, let them develop their technology for cleaner burning, give them a tax break once that technology is in place. We all benefit from that, punitive measures and lawsuits, I don't think are the way to go. I don't think lawsuits create jobs, I think lawsuits drive jobs out of our state. So I am absolutely not a proponent of raising any kind of tax on our families here in Connecticut.

Moderator: Mr. Blumenthal.

Blumenthal: Yes, a national energy policy really has to provide for the future, not look back to the past, to a proposal that is dead. Cap in Trade isn't coming back, to call Cap in Trade a national energy tax to accuse me of supporting a national energy tax is misleading, not my word, the Hartford Courant's word to describe my opponents attack on me, supposedly supporting a national energy tax. My opponent said she would have had a hard time deciding whether to oppose broad water, well I'm _____, two projects that I fought in Long Island Sound because they opposed an environmental threat but also a security danger and offered no real benefit to Connecticut, but we do need to use more natural gas in the short term and we are reliant on natural gas for much of our energy needs and we need to be honest about the

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compatibility of environment and energy. If we had a national energy policy, now I would just say one more thing about energy and that is that right now we are providing \$40 billion dollars in subsidies, tax breaks, and loopholes to the special energy interests. I would shut them, my opponent, has sided with the energy interests on that score and I can assure the people of Connecticut, first and foremost, that I will stand for them against those special interests, energy companies that I have fought over the years for their benefit to cut electricity costs to make sure that they do not dominate the public interest. I will fight for the people of Connecticut; stand for them against those special interests in Washington DC, because we've seen Washington is dominated by those special interests.

Moderator: I'd like to make sure that energy doesn't dominate the entire debate, so I'd like to move onto the next question, if I may, and that would be Jerrod Ferrari of The Hour newspaper, your question for Mr. Blumenthal please.

Ferrari: Thank you. Good morning.

Moderator: Morning.

Ferrari: I think that we would all agree that our transportation infrastructure needs serious improvement. Amtrak recently put out a proposal but that seems to be about 30 years away. What on a federal level as senator would you do to improve mass transit in this part of the country?

Blumenthal: Mass transit is a serious need for Connecticut and the entire northeast region, indeed for our entire country and is also very important for environmental and energy interests as well as our current security concerns. Mass transit, high speed rail can be promoted and encouraged and supported by the federal government and I would strongly advocate and fight for more transportation funds for Connecticut, for the 95 corridor, for the

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Hartford to Springfield to New Haven route, for other routes that make sense because we can not only transport people but more goods and provides more services and promote economic revival. Investment in our infrastructure is absolutely critical and we ought to be encouraging that kind of investment in infrastructure obviously through those kinds of federal projects and federal grants and other forms of federal support but also through a tax policy that makes sense. I support a middle income tax cut now without holding it hostage for a tax cut to the wealthiest 2% and I think combined with an infrastructure program will help revive our economy. I would not hold that middle income tax hostage in a tax cut for the wealthiest 2%.

Moderator: Mrs. McMahon.

McMahon: Certainly, I think that if any of us have just traveled on 95, we know the need to get cars off the road and improve our transportation system here in the state. In Stamford Connecticut we have one of the biggest projects going on I think now in the country, you know with our transportation land and development which is now, you know, right in the, running right into the Long Island town, it's a full community, you can live there, work there and play there as well. It's going to be an incredible development, I think we need to see more of that similar building in New Haven is going on so as we look to not only increase our mass transit, we're also certainly going to develop more of these work-play living areas as they're called, which are going to be very much environmentally sound and get more traffic off the road. So federal dollars can be used to support these as a senator, I certainly would look to bring those kind of dollars into the state in terms of grant with full appropriation and transparency and I certainly want to say to everyone here that I believe that now in the time of recession, we should not raise taxes on anyone, certainly not on the middle class. No democrats, republicans, there is not disagreement about that. We would not raise taxes on anyone and why would you let the

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Bush tax cuts expire at the end of this year and have a negative impact on small businesses. Small businesses create 70% of the jobs in this country, 72% of the revenue that is earned by these small businesses will be effected by this tax increases. My opponent wants to increase taxes, you know on a greater area and let me tell you what will happen, 12-1/2 billion dollars would leave this state. Primarily, you know throughout Fairfield County, 12-1/2 billion dollars would leave this state and go to Washington to be spent. I'd rather leave the money here in Connecticut in the hands of our families and the people who create jobs because until we create jobs in the private sector, in this country, we are not going to have a sustained recovery. And when Mr. Blumenthal was talking about in special interests, I just would like to know were they the same special interests that are now bankrolling his campaign?

Moderator: Mr. Blumenthal.

Blumenthal: To go back to your question, transportation properly spent actually can encourage small businesses and I'm very much in favor of encouraging small businesses through transportation and infrastructure investments, in road building but also most important, mass transit and railroads but we also need to provide targeted tax cuts to small businesses. Not by extending the Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest 2% and blocking a middle class tax cut as my opponent would do which violates principles of fairness and economic wisdom but targeted tax cuts, for example, deductions for startup costs, R&D tax credits, tax cuts for new hires, payroll tax exemptions, very specific kinds of aide that will make possible the creation of new jobs and preservation of existing ones. Absolutely small business is the engine of new job creation but targeted tax cuts are the way to provide the support that small businesses need combined with financing, right now small businesses tell me they can't borrow cause the banks won't lend to them and the government can help enable better financing through direct loans from the SBA

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and other means. A "Buy America" program to make sure that our federal tax dollars are used to buy products made in the United States. My opponent actually buys through WWE most of her products are manufactured overseas. She sends jobs overseas through WWE and we need to close another tax loophole, the one that encourages jobs to be sent overseas by businesses that are rewarded for shipping those jobs overseas. That tax law loophole cost us \$200 billion dollars over a period of time, I will fight for the people of Connecticut against those special interests and the people of Connecticut know me. No matter who contributes to my campaign, no matter what the amount, I'm going to stand for them, they can count on me, they know it not from my words but from my record of action over 20 years and standing strong against those special interests is what we need to do in Washington because Washington just isn't listening.

Moderator: Mrs. McMahon do you want to respond?

McMahon: WWE does not make toys, Mattel makes toys and so WWE license Mattel Toys to make those toys, distribute them around the world and um, I have no doubt Mr. Blumenthal you probably bought Mattel toys for your children along the way some time. What we need to do to encourage our businesses here to develop and grow is to make sure that we have an environment, the right kind of environment for businesses to grow. Businesses leave our country because we have a 35% corporate tax rate here. The average world tax rate is 18%, so let's make sure we can create the environment to keep jobs here. Now Mr. Blumenthal talks about how he doesn't want to raise taxes, he doesn't want to raise taxes on the middle class, he talks about his 20 years as attorney general. Maybe some of you here who don't know, I didn't at first, that Mr. Blumenthal also served in state legislature for 6 years and while he was in the state legislature, he voted in one year, for at that time, the largest tax increase in the history of the state, \$850 million dollars, which hit our middle class and we continue to pay for that today.

Also during that 6 year term, he voted to almost double spending in the state of Connecticut. Now I submit to you, this is his record as a legislator, he had 6 years, that's the term of the United States senator, I don't think we can send Mr. Blumenthal to Washington with his tax and spend philosophy; we can't afford Dick Blumenthal in Washington.

Moderator: Mr. Blumenthal. Please, please.

Blumenthal: I think we will benefit from both sides being quiet during the debate, with all due respect, and I hope I'm not usurping your role?

Moderator: Go right ahead. We get a taste of your leadership skills.

Laughing, clapping.

Blumenthal: You know when WWE buys products overseas, manufactured abroad, it has deprived our workers of jobs and it isn't just joys, it isn't just Mattel, it's all kinds of merchandise manufactured overseas by workers there when American workers could be making the same products, millions and millions of dollars spent by WWE. Now, it has a say in where those products are manufactured, it has a choice and my opponent as CEO of that company had a choice about how she would spend those corporate dollars, whether she would do as many Americans do, buy America. I say buy America. The federal government ought to be doing it, I defended the made in America label when it was going to be diluted by the FTC, I feel strongly that we have a responsibility as Americans to fight for a fair trade policy and American workers are the ones who suffer as well as American businesses and our entire economy when the Chinese, for example, manipulate our currency, their currency to our detriment, when they manipulate their currency and under value it, our products are priced higher and we ought to be fighting. Someone has to be there for our middle class, saying we need tax cuts, for fairer trade policy, so made in America works and the example of my opponent buying overseas, her

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products, I think is a very unfortunate one. Now I voted for that tax increase in 1989, more than two decades ago, I also voted for tax cuts when I was in the legislature. If we want to go back to what I was doing in 1989, we can talk about what my opponent was doing in about that year, when she was tipping off a doctor who worked for her about a federal investigation, a criminal investigation, she hired the doctor, she tipped him off to the investigation, it's a matter of record and I am running on my record of two decades, fighting for the people of Connecticut, standing strong for them against those energy interests and against the special interests that would harm them.

Moderator: Mrs. McMahon, if you'd like to respond and then we'll go to the next question.

McMahon: Mr. Blumenthal, I think you want to constantly focus on WWE because it's really difficult for you to focus on the economy and creating jobs. WWE is certainly a company for which I am very proud. Over the last 28 years, WWE has at average creating 20 jobs a year, in this primarily in this state and I can tell you that's what we need more of here in Connecticut, we need someone who knows how to create jobs, who knows how to create jobs in the private sector so that we can have an economic recovery here in our country and when companies here in the United States buy products outside of the United States because that's where they are manufactured, what we need to focus on again, is creating incentives for our country, our corporations here to have the right kind of environment, to grow and to develop their jobs. They need to have good tax policies, they need to have incentives to grow, they need to have a climate of certainty, they don't know what's coming down the pike at this point, health care reform, whether Cap in Trade, this national energy tax is going to happen, whether card check is going to happen, what are going to be the tax increases that are coming upon them.

When people create jobs, they have to manage their downside risks, the why we're not creating jobs today in our environment is simply because we have created this perfect storm of uncertainty from Washington and I want to be able to change that, I know how to create jobs, I've done that here in Connecticut and I would like Mr. Blumenthal to talk about the jobs that he has created here in Connecticut.

Moderator: Perhaps that will be part of the next question, Ubong Odama..

Odama: Mrs. McMahon, last week you accepted the endorsement of the National Federation of Independent Business, this agenda includes freezing the minimum wage, simplifying the American's with Disabilities Act and the Family and Medical Leave Act, which is authored by Chris Dodd. Do you agree with this agenda?

McMahon: Um, well certainly that gave lives last week to, well whether or not I would reducing the minimum wage, I certainly would not, want to be crystal clear about that, and I said I would absolutely consider whether minimum wage would be increased moving forward and I think a responsible senator would do that and I was very pleased to accept the NFIB endorsement. I do think that we do need to grow, small businesses as I've said, and one of the things that the owner of the company who was there are the press conference had said, which I do totally agree with, that one of the tenants of NFIB and how they want to move forward to develop business, is to let government stay out of the way, let government let free market, free enterprise system allow businesses to grow and to develop here in our country and that certainly what I support within NFIB and I think they bring to the table the attitude that we need smaller government, we need less taxes, we need less spending by our government and that way businesses can have the culture here to grow and to operate. We don't have proper working capital right now because we have so much restriction and regulation on small community banks.

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I've talked to so many community banks around this state who are telling me that they might have had Mr. Jones as a client, they've loaned him money, he's paid it back but at this particular point they can't loan to him because bank regulators are coming in and saying well you can loan to Mr. Jones but we think his business may become nonperforming therefore you're going to have more assets on your books in order to loan to him. So we're freezing capital in the marketplace and groups like NFFB certainly are so supportive of having small businesses grow and that's why I was very pleased to receive their endorsement.

Moderator: Mr. Blumenthal.

Blumenthal: Yeah, when my opponent accepted the endorsement of that group she was asked in a group of reporters whether she would consider reducing the minimum wage and she said, she would look at it. I wouldn't need to look at it, I would say absolutely not. The other day during our debate she virtually accused me of lying when I reproduced this exchange. Now she says she misunderstood the question. The fact of the matter is she said she would look at reducing the minimum wage. She talks about creating jobs, many of the jobs she's created at WWE, have no health insurance, the wrestlers and others are hired as independent contractors, her company is under investigation now by the state for allegedly misclassifying, illegally misclassifying these workers as independent contractors and denying them health insurance and dodging taxes on social security, Medicare and other forms of taxation such as unemployment compensation. Creating those kinds of jobs without health insurance is certainly not something that I would brag about. And as for creating jobs, I believe that we can have public private partnerships, such as has occurred in the fuel cell industry. When I visited the Fuel Cell Energy Corporation, they described to me how the Department of Energy had encouraged and supported the development of new technology in fuel cells and thereby enable them to build their company

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with a technology that was a result of that public private partnership. There are other ways that we can encourage and support jobs by providing financing, by fighting for fair trade policy, but certainly in the area of green jobs our public sector can play a vital role. Right now, Korea, South Korea is developing more jobs in fuel cell than the United States using our technology. We ought to be embarrassed and ashamed that a technology developed in this country is actually being developed overseas and as United States Senator, I can assure you I'm going to fight for more support for those kinds of jobs that provide good incomes for our people, good sources of economic revival and most important, a hope for our children for the future that we can be a leader once again in the United States, in the global economy and that kind of vision and courage is what I hope to bring to Washington.

End of Side A Transcription

Side B

Silence at the beginning of this side.

McMahon: Let's just be clear about the minimum wage issue. Just check with the Connecticut Mirror and the New York Times. I think they say they do pretty well. [unclear] Mr. Blumenthal, you always like to attack this audit that's going on with WWE relative to independent contractors, which is a routine audit going on in many areas around the country. In fact, Monday night you said it was a criminal investigation.

Mr. Blumenthal: No, I didn't.

McMahon: Oh, I believe you did, sir. Uh, I do believe you did. You said it was criminal and you said that your office did not have authority that was Department of Labor and it was a criminal investigation. And I would certainly think well, let's give you the benefit

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of the doubt. Maybe you just misspoke again when you talked about the criminal investigation, like the time when you talked about how you had served in Vietnam, like the time when you talked about you were not going to Vancouver for the trial lawyers for a fundraiser, like the time when you even after you apologized for Vietnam then you mischaracterized again your draft status relative to your, your draft number and your reasons for joining the Marines. So I just want to say that given how you misspeak and you characterize WWE from a standpoint of criminal investigation and you did do that, you not just did it on Monday night, you did it on another occasion as well. I actually think, sir, it would be criminal for the United States Attorney to accuse a company of criminal activity and then to state that it was outside of your jurisdiction as Attorney General for criminal procedure because you certainly have called for criminal investigation before. So I'd just like to state that and clear that up. We clearly need to incentivize, and I agree with that our business is here in our country. For South Korea to be using that technology absolutely agree and that's what I'm talking about. We need to incentivize businesses here. We don't need to drive them off shore by having high tax rates. Let's make R&D tax credits permanent here in our country. Let's make sure that our corporate tax rates are competitive at least for around the world. Tax loop holes exist because companies who produce products outside of the United States or have off-shore businesses they pay the tax to that particular state and that's a credit against tax paid here. But the balance of that money gets taxed if you bring it back here to this country. Other countries don't do that. If a company is based here in the United States, it's a French company and they pay taxes here in the United States they don't pay it again in France. So what we're doing is penalizing companies. And to now say that we're going to close the tax loop hole so that that company will have to pay the full tax on that dollar when it is earned outside of the United States, I can tell you what will happen. Companies

won't have a base here, they'll go off-shore completely, and we won't have any tax revenue. And I think that's bad because Mr. Blumenthal it gets back to the fact you don't understand business, it's not your fault, you've been in government all your life.

Laughter.

Moderator. Mr. Blumenthal, and then we'll go to Mr. Baden afterwards.

Moderator: Mr. Blumenthal.

Mr. Blumenthal: Well, let's make clear right at the outset; I am not involved in the investigation of WWE. I said on Monday night that my jurisdiction is civil. The allegations, the allegations against WWE in connection with illegal misclassification are potentially criminal. As for Vietnam, I just want to make clear as I have said again and again, I'm proud of my military record. On a few occasions, a small number out of the hundreds that I described it, I inaccurately characterized it, and I regret it. It was unintentional, but that's no excuse, I take full responsibility, I apologize as I've done before. To the people of Connecticut, most particularly to our veterans, and I will continue to champion the cause of that principle. I will continue to fight for a program called, "No Veteran Left Behind" because all too often we have failed to keep faith with our veterans. The tax loop holes that encourage jobs to go overseas cost us more than \$200 billion, we ought to close them. My opponent is siding with the special interest that would seek to retain them just as she has sided with the energy interest in favor of the \$40 billion in hidden subsidies and preferences that the energy interests receive and presumably also with the tax loop holes and subsidies that Agri business receives, again, worth billions of dollars. And the sweetheart deal that our pharmaceutical drug companies have received under the healthcare bill. That sweetheart deal cost us \$200 billion. It prevents the federal government from negotiating Medicare drug prices that would save us that money and

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other measures that would cut waste and fraud in healthcare absolutely necessary to make healthcare work. The present bill is simply a good step in the right direction, but by no means the end of the progress that we need to make in our healthcare program. Standing up against special interest is in no way what my opponent wants to do. She has put profit ahead of people at every turn and that is the kind of United States Senator she would be. I have fought for people, and I would do so in Washington against those special interests, stand strong for the people of Connecticut.

Commentator: Tom Baden, your question for Mr. Blumenthal, please.

Mr. Baden: Mr. Blumenthal, someone suggested that as Attorney General you have been unnecessarily harsh and litigious toward small businesses. I'm going to read you what an attorney for two small businesses, who you sued and ultimately settled with, had to say about the experience. "If you are a small business owner and Richard Blumenthal sues you for \$70,000 and wants \$1,000,000 in penalties, life as you know it is over. Your bank accounts are seized, liens are placed on property and assets even if you win the state will appeal and you'll wait another year. You're out of business; you're dead." How do you respond to that?

Mr. Blumenthal: You know I have stood strong for small business and for jobs when they were victims of wrongdoing. And also stood strong and fought for consumers when they were victims of wrongdoing. My job has been to fight for people who are victims of wrongdoing, and I have stood for Automobile Motors, a car dealership in Maryland, when it was doing to be shut down by General Motors. I have stood for Stanley Works and jobs there as well as Automobile Motors when it was threatened with a hostile takeover. I have stood with the workers at Pratt when Pratt & Whitney wanted to ship those jobs elsewhere. My job is to fight for people, and I have sought to fight for people using the law to make a difference in their lives

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and most particularly, and most commonly, in many ways, I have stood for people who were victims of healthcare insurers. When they were denied healthcare coverage, I have gone to bat for them, worked for them, and made sure that someone was in their corner to get the medical treatment they deserved. Again and again in thousands of cases whether stem cell transplants, or cancer treatment, or other kinds of life-saving procedures, sometimes baby formula. We have worked and fought for the people of Connecticut, and we have used the legal means available to make sure that small businesses are defended against wrongdoing, as well as ordinary consumers. And I would just cite one other example when property casualty insurers in Connecticut and around the country fixed prices and rigged bids, we recovered hundreds of millions of dollars for consumers and small businesses here in Connecticut. Small businesses are often the beneficiaries of what we do.

Moderator: Mrs. McMahon.

Mrs. McMahon: I've not talked to a single small business around this state that's felt like they were a beneficiary, Mr. Blumenthal (laughing while speaking), of your actions. And you, you fought, and you're fighting again today, but what are you fighting for now? You're fighting for higher taxes. You're fighting for bigger government. You know, you're fighting for a healthcare bill that is going to take a half a trillion dollars out of Medicare spending. And I've heard you say well that just goes against Medicare Advantage. What that does is its going to reduce payments under Medicare A and B to hospitals, and I think that is going to impact our seniors. They're going to feel that. There is a potential that they won't be able to get their care. Under this healthcare bill, there's going to be taxes on manufacturing of medical equipment. Well, what's going to happen? That cost is going to get passed on to consumers, and yes it's very definitely going to cost our seniors and this healthcare bill will raise

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taxes. You, you've applauded healthcare passing, now you say it's a good start. Well, I have to say that I think that a bill that starts with premiums that are going to go up by double digits, taxes on small businesses, increased premiums to families; we will lose healthcare coverage rather than gain healthcare coverage. We're going to drive the cost of healthcare up, and I think make healthcare worse. And we're driving doctors out of the Medicare business. I don't think that's a good place to start. I think it ought to be repealed. We ought to start again.

Applause.

Commentator: Mr. Blumenthal.

Mr. Blumenthal: Well, if Ms. McMahon wants to talk to small businesses that have benefited from the work that I've done, she ought to get out a little bit more and talk to more small businesses in Connecticut as I have done.

Applause.

Commentator: Let them talk.

Mr. Blumenthal: As I have done consistently over 20 years listening, listening to the people of Connecticut. That's where my best ideas and energy come from listening to the people of Connecticut. You know, my opponent would have a little more credibility on fighting taxes if she had not hired Washington lobbyists over a decade paying them more than a million dollars to strong-arm Congress. There's nothing different. She claims to be different, but there's nothing different about hiring lobbyists to strong-arm Congress to kill legislation as she sought to do. Kill legislation that would provide greater protection to children against marketing of sex and violence. She also hired those lobbyists to help her with a steroid investigation by the government that was ongoing at that time. Hundreds of thousands of dollars spent on Washington lobbyists, that's no different—that's politics as usual. I have never favored

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higher taxes as an energy tax as my opponent has said. I believe that we ought to cut the middle income tax now. That middle income tax not only inhibits economic growth, it is also unfair if it's held hostage for the wealthiest 2%. I would not block that tax cut. And I would also stand strong in favor of the minimum wage. No question, we shouldn't look at whether it should be reduced. And I would make sure that those tax loopholes are reduced and that we avoid the extension of Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest 2% because they would not only be unwise as a matter of economic policy but they would not help small business. Only like that 2% of small businesses in any way are affected by them, and we need targeted tax relief for those smaller businesses which we need now. We need middle income tax relief, we need help for small businesses, we should not balloon the deficit by \$700 billion dollars by extending those Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest 2%.

Commentator: Mrs. McMahon

Mrs. McMahon: WWE did hire a government relations companies in Washington because we actually wanted to build relationships so that we could expand our Smackdown Your Vote! program as part of what we did. We also did approach Congress relative to having the troops from WWE go to Afghanistan and Iraq to entertain our men and women there. And I believe these were, that was the predominant part of the spin there, and, yes, there were dollars that were used to fight for First Amendment rights for television programmers and also there were dollars used when we who were at WWE was asked to testify as part of the, you probably saw that whole business with baseball and all that that took place a couple of years ago. So in preparation for those WWE hired a law firm, the law firm that we have had and used for years and years at K&L Gates so there were dollars expended there. But let's talk a bit about you talk about this increase of tax on the wealthy, and the small businesses

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it's only 2%. That small 2 business 2% creates 72% of the revenue from the small businesses. They're the ones creating the jobs. And if you want to impose a tax on them now under the time they are already paying 45% the top level of income, their tax would go up to 39.6 as with those who are in the higher income tax bracket. That is 3 1/2%, well maybe a little bit more, than Wal-Mart will pay as a corporation because it's at a 35% tax rate. I submit to you taxing smaller businesses at a higher rate than Wal-Mart is getting taxed is unconscionable. We're going to not continue to create jobs in the private sector by doing that. And Mr. Blumenthal I'm really happy that you have fought so hard for small businesses and that you traveled the state talking to them. WWE's been in the state for 20 years. One day you stopped by and had a cup of tea with me, but that's about the extent of you ever checking out or listening to any of my ideas with WWE and how we have almost 600 people here and the amount of taxes we pay to the state. So you're fighting now, you're fighting for increase in taxes. Let me remind you: When he was in the legislature one year he voted for an 850 million dollar tax increase that affected middle class Americans. We're still paying for it today, and he almost doubled state spending. We cannot afford another tax and spend senator in Washington. We cannot afford you Mr. Blumenthal; we had enough of you already.

Commentator: Joe F_____ your question for Mrs. McMahon.

Joe F_____: Thank you. Ms. McMahon, you are against trying terrorists in civilian court. Recently, a former Connecticut resident, an attempted terrorist, was tried in civilian court and sentenced to life. Did this process change your mind on that stance at all?

Mrs. McMahon: I believe the terrorist you're referring to, and correct me if I'm wrong. I believe that is the one who is also a citizen of the United States. He was tried. That was around the Time Square bomber.

Joe F _____: Yes.

Mrs. McMahon: I think there's a different, I think there is a different rule to apply there. When you're talking about _____ Mohammad, who came in responsible for 9/11. I do not believe those terrorists should be tried in our court system. I don't think they should be accorded the right and privileges as a citizen of the United States. I think they are more properly tried in the military tribunal.

Applause.

Commentator: Mr. Blumenthal:

Mr. Blumenthal: I believe that the question of where a specific terrorist should be tried depends on the facts. _____ Mohammad, I believe, should be tried in a military tribunal. An attack on this country by a person from another country, directed, trained and supplied in a direct attack on the United States should be tried in the military tribunal particularly if it would involve a compromise of intelligence interests. My attitude and approach as a prosecutor, a former United States Attorney, is I want the swiftest and surest conviction with the harshest punishment for anyone who does harm or threatens harm to the United States. And I would continue to make decisions based on each case as it comes before me.

Applause.

Commentator: _____ Your question for Mr. Blumenthal.

Unclear name: Okay. Mr. Blumenthal. Chris Dodd has just traveled to Cuba to discuss with Cuban government officials about the relations between the two countries. He's an outspoken critic of the embargo. What's your position on Cuba and the embargo?

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Mr. Blumenthal: I think we should be open to normalizing relations with Cuba. I think we should consider steps in that direction, but I may not agree completely with everything that Chris Dodd or any other member of the Senate states. I want to make clear that I will do what's right for the people of Connecticut, the economy of our state, the working men and women in middle class families of the state of Connecticut.

Commentator: **Mrs. McMahon:**

Mrs. McMahon: I, too, think that we should take steps to remove this embargo. It's been there for a long, long time. And there's probably some in here that would like to have Cuban cigars. But, I also think that what we have to do is look at our free-trade agreements. When we export our products that we make here in the United States, we create jobs. In fact, it was President Obama, I believe, who said that for, for every 1% of increase in exporting, we create 250,000 jobs, so I would really look for our free-trade agreements. America still does manufacture. In fact I believe America is still the largest manufacturing company in exporting for manufacturing goods, and we need markets for those goods. Free-trade agreements, I think, are necessary. There are pending free-trade agreements in Congress now. And I do think as we open those doors and have opportunities to export we will absolutely create more jobs here in our country.

Commentator: Panelists, thank you very much. Candidates it's come time now for the final remarks, and by the toss of the coin Mrs. McMahon you go first. Two minutes.

McMahon: Well, again, I would like to thank everyone who is here today for our hosts, for our sponsors today, our panelists, for those of you who are here and those who are watching electronically at home. I'm running for the United States Senate because our economy is in shambles. People are out of work. Our families are hurting. Nest eggs have been

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devastated. And there aren't enough people in Washington who understand how to create jobs. I want the American dream, which I've had the privilege to live, to be there for my grandchildren and for that next generation. My opponent has made a convincing case today that he has extensive government experience and I don't disagree with that because he spent a life-long career in the government and on the government payroll. I'm a wife, a mother, a grandmother, and I am a businesswoman who has juggled building a business at the same time raising a family. Neither job was easy. I've known hard times, and I've known prosperity. I've been the CEO in a tough business and I had to make tough decisions. The choice in this election in November is absolutely clear—we have a career politician versus a businesswoman who knows how to create jobs. We have someone who wants to grow government, while I want to grow the economy. Mr. Blumenthal wants to raise taxes to cover spending. I want to keep money in the hands of the families and of the job creators here in Connecticut. We have to change the direction of our government. We have to create jobs in the private sector by incentivizing small businesses. We have to not raise taxes to cover spending. I want to reduce spending and balance the budget. Over the past year, I've spent almost every day around our state meeting with many of you, talking with you, listening to you. And as a senator, I want that young unwed, that young single mom who has lost her job to be able to know that she has a champion. I want that veteran that I talked to after he had been at Stand Down up in Rock Hill to know that he has a champion. I want the teacher who is struggling for innovation to know that she has a champion in the senate. And I'd like to just to leave you with this thought: If you picked up the phone and called your senator. Wouldn't you feel better connecting with someone who's walked in your shoes? I would.

Commentator:

Mr. Blumenthal. Two minutes.

Mrs. McMahon: Thank you very much and it would be my privilege to be your next United States Senator.

Applause.

Commentator: Hold your applause, please. Mr. Blumenthal.

Applause.

Mr. Blumenthal. Thank you to everyone for joining us today and to the people who are listening for giving us your attention. Elections are about choices. And this election presents a very, stark clear choice. My opponent is different says she is different, although she has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on Washington lobbyists to stop a measure that would protect children from sex and violence. She has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on her investigation or her involvement in investigation conducted by the government into steroid use in her company. She is different from me. She has spent her life building her fortune. I have spent my life helping people build their futures. I am proud of standing for the people of Connecticut, working for them, advocating for them. For Kathy Platt when _____ Motors was going to be closed by General Motors, and we worked with Kathy and her family to keep that small business open and preserve those jobs. For Laura Austin, when her baby was denied health insurance coverage for a formula that she desperately needed, and for Billy Clark, who works at Pratt & Whitney --

Commentator: I'm afraid we're going to have to stop. We've run out of time. Thank the candidates. You can give them your enthusiasm. Thank you.

Applause and chanting.

I know, but we ran out of time. Do you hear him?

Yea.

The end.

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Exhibit E
U.S. Senate Debate Transcript
Oct. 12, 2010

10/12/10

Connecticut Senate Debate

Richard Blumenthal/Linda McMahon

Okay. Now, let me introduce and Ann Neiburg. (Laughter)

Thank you. I have this time thing, you know, we're going to go live at 7:00, so, um, thank you very much Gary, I appreciate that. Just between - 30 seconds, yes? Minute 30? All right, minute until we go live. Um, I just have to say this as a legal disclaimer. Tonight's telecast of the debate is a copyrighted production and may not be used in full or in part without the express written consent of WTNH TV. All right, all right, all right. If you have a cell phone turn that off. If you have a Gong get it out of here. We need to have, you know, your full attention. The cameras are not trained on you at all. So if you decide to be unruly we will wait and capable of making you stop doing what you are doing. Thank you so much for being here today and enjoying what is going on. So, I'm going to stop talking for a second cause I'm getting some cues and we're going to go live in about 30 seconds. So, thank you.

Silence. Then music.

Ann Neiburg: Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to this evening's U.S. Senate debate at the historic Garde Art Center in New London. I'm Ann Neiburg moderator for News 8. News 8 and the Day of New London are sponsoring this event in cooperation with the League of Women Voters. Taking part are Democrat Richard Blumenthal and Republican Linda McMahon.

Questioning the candidates this evening are News 8 political correspondent, Mark Davis; and editorial page editor for The Day, Paul Shawnier (sp). This debate will be cumulative; there will be 24 minutes on the clock for each candidate. Each candidate - the answer will be no more than 3 minutes. At the end of the debate there will be two minutes for each candidate to make a

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closing statement. To the audience, we are televised, streaming live; you should remain seated, refrain from any applause, cell phones off. Thank you in advance for giving these candidates the respect they deserve. And now let us begin this debate.

The questioning will start with Paul Shawnier (sp). The first to answer will be Mr.

Blumenthal. Paul?

Paul Shawnier: Good evening. I'm gonna start this off with an excerpt from the Republican's recently released Pledge to America. And I think it well summarizes the Republican perspective on why we have persistent high unemployment. And I'd like to get your reaction to this Pledge to America. The quote is, "It is time to end this liberal cleansing experiment and stop the attacks on our employers that prevent them from investing in our economy. We need private sector jobs not more government." And, I would like to get your reaction on this, Mr. Blumenthal.

Richard Blumenthal: Thank you. And thank you everyone for joining us tonight. Thank you, Ann, and to everyone who is watching. The fact of the matter is that our state and our nation are struggling with high unemployment, unacceptably high unemployment, and with an approach from Washington that emphasizes too much top down bailouts that help Wall Street and investment banks there and not enough for main street where jobs are created. People create jobs. Small businesses create jobs. Government can provide the tools but it also must take away the obstacles. And there are some very specific ways that I think government can provide the tools. For example, for exports, a more acceptable and stronger way to provide financing and loans for businesses. We can do better in job training and, also, take away some of the obstacles like providing tax deductions for businesses with start up costs as well as research and development credits for businesses that manufacture here. And tax exemptions for new hires as

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well as exemptions for capital gains. That kind of program, along with closing the loopholes for corporations that send jobs overseas, which costs us 200 billion dollars are what I would fight to do. And my opponent has a very different approach - She supported the bailout. I opposed it because it does too much for those investment banks, not enough to aid those small businesses, which really create jobs. I believe that this country can and should do better for those small businesses as well as for people who are struggling, for example, I would not look at changing the minimum wage. My opponent was asked that question and she said she would look at changing and cutting the minimum wage. So this country must do better at job creation that people and small businesses create jobs and government can provide the tools and remove the obstacles.

Neiburg: Linda, Ms. McMahon.

Linda McMahon: I would also like to thank all of you who are here this evening, our hosts, our panelists and those of you here in our audience and watching us electronically at home. I must say, Mr. Blumenthal, I'm very happy you have a better notion of how to create jobs this week than you had last week. And you are right, government does not create jobs, people create jobs. Entrepreneurs take risks. In order for them to take risks they have to have an environment that has the ability for them to know that when they take those risks it's an environment of certainty. They know how to plan; they know what taxes are going to be levied on them; they know what regulations are going to be levied on them; and until we create that environment of certainty for entrepreneurs we're not going to be able to create jobs. And that's what we really have to focus on is creating jobs in the private sector. Now, Mr. Blumenthal likes to keep referring to the fact that he says I that talked about lowering the minimum wage. That I would just advise you to take a look at the New York Times or the Hartford Courant or the

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Connecticut Mirror which says absolutely I did not say that, though he would like to pretend to bring that up. Mr. Blumenthal really has no experience in creating jobs in the private sector. So he really doesn't understand what it's like when he talks about loopholes for companies that have jobs overseas. But loopholes translates to, ladies and gentlemen, is tax increases. Companies that have jobs outside of the United States or have companies outside of the United States are paying corporate tax rate here in America when the funds are brought back into the United States, but they also pay the tax that is in that country where their business is located. So there is no incentive for companies here. Whether it be tax increases that might occur is for companies to be taxed from dollar one. The day they earn those dollars instead of when they bring them back to the United States. That is not going to encourage job growth here. In fact, it will drive jobs out of this country. Businesses won't be located here. The United States won't have any of that income or any of that revenue. Mr. Blumenthal's entire career has been in government so he doesn't understand about creating jobs. And I would just ask him, "Mr. Blumenthal have you created any jobs in our country?"

Neiburg: Mark, your question to Ms. McMahon.

Mark Davis: Mrs. McMahon. I was at the event in East Hartford where the minimum wage was discussed and I agree you did not say you wanted to cut the minimum wage. However, a lot of people are unclear about exactly what you did say as referenced by all of my emails and voice mails ever since that event happened. So could you please tell us exactly what your position is on the minimum wage? Do you support the federal government's authority to have one, or do you think that it is a hindrance to small business?

McMahon: Mark, as I said that day, I absolutely do not believe that we should cut the minimum wage. I've said that we should look, in fact, Mr. Blumenthal and I both had the same

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opinion on this, that before the minimum wage is increased I think we should review it. And I think that's a prudent position if we are in the senate or in the legislature to take. So just to make sure - that I don't think in today's economy clearly we should not be talking about increasing taxes on any one, we're certainly not going to talk about reducing minimum wage. I believe that we should look at making sure that we keep taxes where they are for everyone. In a time when we have unemployment that's at 9.6% in our nation, and 9.1% in our state, raising taxes on any segment, especially on small businesses that are going to create 70% of the jobs in this country, is not the right thing to do. And my opponent would want to raise taxes on small businesses and send over 12.5 million dollars to Washington. I want keep that money here in our state, in the hands of our families, in the hands of companies who are going to create those jobs - and not send it to Washington. So, Mr. Blumenthal and I have a very different opinion on raising taxes. He wants to raise taxes on small business. Just like he raised taxes when he was in the legislature, for six years in Connecticut which you might not know before he was Attorney General. During that time he voted for the largest increase in taxes in the state's history, at that particular time, over 850 million dollars. And during his six years, which is the length of time you would serve as a senator, he voted to almost double spending in the State of Connecticut. We cannot send more tax and spending government life-long politicians to Washington. We just can't afford it.

Neiburg: Mr. Blumenthal.

Blumenthal: Thank you. I might say my opponent would have more credibility on the issue of taxes if she had not taken a tax credit last year to create jobs and then laid-off 10% of her work force, and taken home 46 million dollars. And she would have more credibility on the issue of outsourcing if her company did not buy most of its merchandise manufactured in China.

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and Pakistan abroad, and if her own campaign hats and t-shirts were not manufactured abroad. I'm not surprised that she is against closing that loophole that costs us 200 billion dollars and encourages businesses to send jobs overseas. But I can tell the people of Connecticut that I will stand strong against it, I will fight it, just as I would all of the special giveaways to the pharmaceutical drug companies, to agri-business, to the energy interests that costs us money and balloon our debt, and in fact, my opponent's tax proposal would balloon our debt by 700 billion dollars - incredible - 700 billion dollars and holding middle class tax cuts hostage so the wealthiest 2% can receive that tax cut that would balloon our deficit by 700 billion dollars over ten years with the excuse that somehow it's good for small business. Absolutely not. And the reason I say it is, that only a small fraction of small businesses would be affected by extending those tax cuts to the wealthiest 2%. In fact, the average small business has income of about \$40,000, well below the cut off that I believe should be applied. A middle class tax cut should be given now. I'm disappointed that Congress returned home without voting on it, but I would vote on it, my opponent would hold it hostage for the wealthiest 2% to receive their tax cuts, and it is absolutely right that small businesses create jobs, people create jobs, and consumer demand would be stimulated by that middle class tax cut and enable more of our people to go back to work, lower that 9.6% unemployment rate, 9.1% in Connecticut, and put thousands people back to work. That's what we need to do, that's what I would fight to do. The people of Connecticut know that I have fought for them, stood strong for them; my opponent has put profits ahead of people as she did when she took that tax credit and then laid-off her work force.

Neiburg: All right, Mark, your question for Mr. Blumenthal.

Dave: And you support the minimum wage, right?

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Blumenthal: I firmly support the minimum wage. I would not cut it, and if were asked that question, I would not say, "I'd look at cutting it," which is what she did - it's on the video.

Davis: Just thought you would answer the question because I get a lot of emails from people to make you both answer the question(s?). Mr. Blumenthal there was a huge piece in the Sunday Times from an economics professor at Harvard who said he has an adjusted gross income in excess of \$250,000, and can afford to pay the extra tax, but that will discourage him from doing any extra work or hiring any one because the taxation will be so high over that level that it wouldn't be worth it. He's looking towards to perhaps saving it for his children. Whereas if he was to do a special job for \$1,000 now he might be able to invest almost a \$1,000 for his children, but under your proposal, and President Obama's, he might end up only take home \$500.

Blumenthal: Well, let's be very clear. I am supporting cutting taxes, or extending the tax cuts for the middle class, which I believe is necessary not only for the sake of fairness but also because it would help stimulate our economy. For people and families that earn more than \$250,000 the rates would simply be at the Clinton levels of taxation. Let's remember under President Clinton our economy did quite well and people earning more than that amount did quite well, and I believe strongly that we should have the cuts now. I'm the only candidate here who is in favor of immediate tax cuts, and by the way, the only candidate who has taken a position that we should not cut Social Security, we should not establish a "means" test or raise the eligibility age levels. We should not do anything to cut Social Security which is not only a promise we've made to seniors, but also absolutely important to our economic recovery and revival. My opponent says, "Not appropriate for the campaign trail to talk about Social Security."

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Neiburg: Ms. McMahon.

McMahon: Mr. Blumenthal and I absolutely agree that taxes should not be raised on middle income families. There's no dispute between him and me. There's no dispute between Democrats and Republicans. The issue is whether or not we would raise taxes on small businesses. And while he might, ah, negate the fact that there would be not many maybe small businesses affected, 72% of the revenue owned by small businesses fall in that class that he's talking about. Why on earth would we consider raising taxes on any group, clearly not on middle income families but also not on anyone; let's encourage and incentivize businesses to grow, let's don't penalize them. Middle class families certainly aren't going to be able to go out and buy things if they don't have a job. Let's create jobs. Mr. Blumenthal that's what you continue to fail to understand is that we just need jobs in this country, not raise taxes. Leave the money in the hands of small businesses and let the free market, free enterprise system work as it has so well throughout our history.

And I would just like to take issue with a couple of things Mr. Blumenthal has said. And that is talking about tax incentives. Just before in his comment when he was talking about creating jobs he was talking about giving tax incentives. I'm very happy that WWE was able to take tax incentives for investments made. Investments made in a digital media department, in television production, so yes, tax incentives help growth, did help to create jobs. Now, also, as CEO you make tough decisions sometimes and you move on. A strong healthy company is one that is going to continue grow. I'm proud of the fact that WWE has created an average of 20 jobs a year over the last 28 years. And because it is a strong company, it is going to move forward with a new initiative next year, a new network that will probably add 100 to 140 new employees. And, Mr. Blumenthal, you might just not understand this, but until you have profits

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we can't hire more people. You can't grow your company, you can't move it forward. So I'm proud of the fact that WWE has moved forward. And let's make sure that on our campaign trail as we discuss our entitlement programs, that we are clear that our entitlements, our Medicare and Social Security do need to be strengthened. They are headed for insolvency if they are not. But I find that it's inappropriate on the campaign trail to kick it around like a political football because any candidate before whose touched that third rail takes away the opportunity of getting into the legislature in a totally bi-partisan way and put good ideas on the table to talk about how to strengthen these programs.

Neilburg: Thank you, Mrs. McMahon. Paul, your question for Mrs. McMahon.

Paul: I'd like to continue the discussion on "tax and spend" which seems to be of a big issue in the campaign, certainly in the economy. Mrs. McMahon, you called for a balanced budget amendment. You want to make the first tax cuts permanent, and the Treasury calculates that would cost 3.7 trillion dollars over ten years. And, yet, you don't want to talk about how we control spending on entitlements, Social Security and Medicare. So, don't the voters deserve some information of how you propose getting spending under control?

McMahon: I certainly have offered some ideas about getting our spending under control. And I think that is important because one of the issues I have talked about is balancing our budget. We can't operate businesses; we can't operate our households if we spend more than we're bringing in. And it's common sense. So how do we do that in Washington? Well, the first things I talked about was rolling back non-defense discretionary spending to 2008 levels, capping federal hiring, having a freeze on wage increases at the federal government level. And also, taking our unspent stimulus money and paying down our debt. We are paying about a billion dollars a day in debt service that would go all away towards reducing our deficit. And if

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we put the measures in place that I've just talked about we'd have an opportunity to decrease our deficit of about 1.3 trillion dollars over the next few years. That's a move definitely in the right direction. We cannot keep spending more than we are making. Now, when I'm talking about letting the current tax law continue so that small businesses do have an incentive to create jobs and put people back to work, that'll have a multiplier effect on the economy. Because if businesses create jobs more people buy more goods and services and pay more taxes. And that's also common sense. My opponent, however, would like you to think that just raising taxes on this next level, as he calls it, just below the - he's going to keep taxes in place the way they are, and middle income families, not allow this tax to increase, all what I'm saying is middle income families need jobs, so let's create jobs. And I don't think that we want to have more policies, like Mr. Blumenthal had recommended, or as he voted on when he was in the legislature in Connecticut. He absolutely has a record of "tax and spend". He voted with the Democratic Party 99% of the time. We don't want a rubber stamp in Washington to continue to follow through on the same policies. Let's make sure that we have common sense return to Washington.

Neiburg: Mr. Blumenthal.

Blumenthal: Yes, thank you. I'm the only candidate here who favors an immediate tax cut for the middle class and I'm the only candidate who's outlining specific proposals to help provide small business with the tools it needs to hire more people - remember small business creates more than 70% of the jobs in the country. And the only candidate who is providing specific proposals to remove some of the obstacles - tax deductions, tax credits, and more aid involved. As I go around the State of Connecticut small businesses tell me they can't get loans because the banks aren't making those loans. Government can provide that kind of support to

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direct loans from the SBA and groups of banks, consortia banks that can get together make those loans. These specific proposals and closing the loopholes that encourage and reward companies for sending those jobs overseas and cost us as tax payers are specific measures. In addition, we need a "Buy America" program that returns Connecticut to making things again in the way that we used to do. "Buy America" means using federal tax dollars to buy American goods not the ones made overseas. And we know from our experience with Ansonia Copper and Brass, that boat vote got many essential parts overseas. We can do more to encourage "Buy America" and "Made in America." I defended the "Made in America" label. I go to bat for small businesses when they are trampled. I stood up for Alderman Motors when it was about to be closed and would have lost many jobs when GM threatened to close it. And we won that battle with Kathy Pratt. I stood up for the workers of Pratt & Whitney when their jobs were going to be sent out of state and overseas. I stood up for Stanley Works when it was threatened for a hostile takeover. Standing up for Connecticut businesses and ordinary people is what I want to do. I have a record of fighting for Connecticut and its people. And small businesses do need tax relief but it should be targeted, not the kind of trickle down economics that created this mess and put millions of people out of work. Wall Street needs to be reformed. My opponent opposed it. I supported it. And I support targeted tax cuts for small business.

Neiburg: Paul, your question for Mr. Bhramenthal.

Paul: You just mentioned "Buy American," your call for Treasury Secretary Geitner, to take swift action against China for currency manipulation. First, are you talking about tariffs, and aren't you concerned that this could set off a protectionist trade war that ends up costing more jobs?

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Blumenthal: I believe strongly that Chinese currency manipulation must stop, and that this country must pursue fair trade policies. And I can commit that I would fight as hard to make those trade policies fair as I have done when I fought utilities in raising their rates, pharmaceutical drug companies in over charging our tax payers. Big tobacco when it addicted our children. Again, and again, and again, and I have asked the Secretary of Treasury to declare China a currency manipulator and impose the sanctions that are necessary to change the way it values its currency. Undervaluing its currency means that barriers are created to our exports to China. And I know the impact, not just from economic theory or from some experts, but going around to businesses here in the State of Connecticut listening to how their exports are stopped by the Chinese under valuation of its currency. I am not fearful of a protectionist war because the rest of the world should be on our side. And, in fact, the head of the IMF recently urged that China reconsider its trade policies. I think on so many issues we must take the lead and I would urge, as I have done before, the President of the United States to act formally, forthrightly, promptly to end Chinese currency manipulation.

Neiburg: All right. Mrs. Blumenthal. I'm sorry, Mrs. McMahon. (Laughter) That was a great look. I have a producer talking to me at the same time.

Blumenthal: Mrs. Blumenthal is with us tonight.

Neiburg: Mrs. Blumenthal. Mrs. McMahon.

McMahon: I think we absolutely have to make sure that we have fair trade agreements in place because our markets here in the United States, our manufacturers here need markets outside of our country. In fact, President Obama said that if we increase exports by 1% we will add about 250,000 jobs. We have, you know we have fair trade agreements pending - you know right now in Congress that we were negotiated in 2007 with Columbia, and Panama, and South

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Korea. Last week the EU went forward with its fair trade agreement with South Korea, and their going to get a jump on that market. We still have time. We could still do it. We have to make sure that we have those markets for our goods to be exported. The United States is still the leading manufacturing company in the world. Over the past few years we've increased - our exports to China over 300%. So we want to make sure that we do have fair trade agreements in place so that we have markets for the goods that we are manufacturing, but at the same time I think that the way that we're going to create jobs here in our country and help balance our economy and get it back on track is to make sure that our taxes here in this country on corporations are fair. That they compete with the global market place. The average corporate tax rate around the world is 18%. Here in the United States it's 35%. Our energy costs are higher, our labor costs are higher. We are not creating the right environment here to manufacture those goods. So until we create the environment here to grow our businesses and to strengthen our economy we're not going to have that same kind of balance because we're not going to have the products to export. And we have to have the markets to export them to. I agree that we should have a currency in China that does fluctuate better than it is now. It's been tied to US currency I think for too long. About sixty other countries tie their currency to the United States as well. In order to create this balance of trade - clear indication is we import way many more products and buy more products than the Chinese do. So I do think we need to create those markets, making sure that we don't have protectionist policies in place because that is just not the way to grow our economy. Let's incentivize our businesses here, but let's make sure that our trade agreements are in place. Mr. Blumenthal, I just would like to ask you one question, too. When you talk about our jobs that are overseas and companies who outsource - in fact, I believe that you have invested holdings in companies that operate in China and in India, and just prior to

getting into this election you divested yourself of holdings that you had in companies that were in the Cayman Islands.

Blumenthal: I can tell you whatever investments I have overseas pale in comparison to the example that you set by outsourcing, in effect, outsourcing jobs, by buying merchandise overseas through WWE. And I will just add that this is used much broader than just the two candidates here. We're talking about the future of our economy and our democracy. We need to stand strong for fairer trade policies. We need to fight currency manipulation by China that disadvantages our manufacturers here and we need a United States Senator who will unequivocally, clearly, without any hesitations say, let's fight currency manipulation by China, let's fight for fairer trade policies, let's take a stand and fight for the people of Connecticut.

Neiburg: Mark, let's get this back on track now, your question for Mrs. McMahon.

Mark: You're right Ann, they do make a lovely couple.

[Laughter]

Neiburg: Let's get this back on track, shall we!

[Laughter]

Mark: We got a lot of emails and a lot of voicemails as I mentioned from people, so maybe we can bring this back to some, something that people who have asked us to ask about, will hear about. This is an email from a woman who identifies herself as Grandma New Haven. Mrs. McMahon, how can you possibly defend the total and disgusting degradation of women on World Wrestling? You seemed to have amassed a fortune in a very sleazy business?

Neiburg: Shh....please.

McMahon: Well I only, let me just say that I am incredibly proud of the company that I've helped build from the ground up. A company that over the last two to three decades has

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evolved from just a traveling road show to a corporate citizen that it is today. Traded in on the New York Stock Exchange on the symbol WWE, and seen around the world. The programming and content of WWE, as has the company, has evolved from TV 14 to TV PG as is rated by the network, so which it plays and I am very happy and much more contented today with the content that is part of WWE's soap opera. I think there were times when we first pushed the envelope, but I am very proud of the company that today is involved in programs like Smack Down Your Vote, getting young people out to register and to vote. Programs with Special Olympics, with Make A Wish Foundation, and also, with the Make A Wish Foundation WWE was granted its highest award and also the tribute to the troops, the entertaining of the men and women who are serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. And that is a company that I am incredibly proud of, a company that employs almost 600 people here in Connecticut. It is a company that will continue to grow and to prosper and we will move forward to grow and create jobs here and continue to contribute to the economy here in Connecticut. Because the men and women who are here, love being in this state as I do and our company has remained in this state throughout the years and will continue to grow and add to the economy here.

Nelburg: Mr. Blumenthal.

Blumenthal: Throughout my 20 year career, I have fought to protect children from abuse and neglect from dangers of marketing of sex and violence, whether it's on the internet or other places and I've made a record of fighting to safeguard children from dangers of addiction, for example, to tobacco. People of Connecticut have to ask whose side each of these candidates has been on. My opponent has not only marketed sex and violence to children but she actually paid hundreds of millions of dollars to lobby in Washington against penalties for sex and violence marketing to children. She also paid millions of dollars to help her navigate a steroid

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investigation by congress and she lobbied state legislatures to stop steroid and drug testing requirements on her business. As much as the content is how she has treated the people who have worked for her. She's hired the wrestlers and many others as independent contractors. Thereby denying them health insurance and dodging taxes on Medicare, Social Security and Unemployment compensation. That issue is now under investigation by the state. And she continues to refuse to acknowledge the long-term health consequences of steroid use despite ~~overwhelming~~ scientific evidence that it is a problem. So I stand on my record and I will continue that record of fighting for children, being in their corner, whether it's sex offenders on MySpace or FaceBook or prostitution ads on CraigsList or abuse and neglect in their homes, domestic violence. I will continue to stand strong for the people of Connecticut and try to protect our children.

Neiburg: Mark, your question to Mr. Blumenthal.

Davis: She doesn't get a chance to rebut that?

Neiburg: Give it back and forth, go ahead, I mean you've made, go ahead.

McMahon: Well thank you very much. Uhm, Mr. Blumenthal is as usual, mischaracterized things. Hundreds of millions of dollars, clearly not the case. One of the things that WWE has done over the years is to make sure that its programming is properly rated and as I said I'm very happy we've moved from TV 14 to TV PG, which is seen by you know millions of people in this country on a weekly basis and you know Mr. Blumenthal we do have the opportunity of whether we go to the movie or watch a television set, we can always change the channel or decide not to go to that particular movie. And I think it's insulting to the millions of people who watch WWE every week and are entertained by it to suggest that somehow it is less then, uh, less then quality entertainment. In terms of making sure that WWE does have

absolutely first class health insurance and benefits for over 500 employees that it has a complete health and wellness policy for the men and women who do perform as independent contractors. In fact those independent contractors make a little over half a million dollars a year, and they work about 3 days a week and they are totally covered for any injury in the ring so that's just wrong and I guess it's just typical that you need to continue to talk about WWE because clearly you don't want to talk about job creation, talk about the economy, talk about how raising taxes on portions of people here in our state will in fact take away 12-1/2 billion dollars and send it to Washington for them to spend. I want to keep that money here at home. I don't want to send it to Washington.

Neiburg: Alright...

Blumenthal: You know...

Neiburg: I'm going to have to interrupt, I'm sorry, Mark, your next question for Mr. Blumenthal.

Davis: Mr. Blumenthal, you have spoken in opposition to rate hike requests from the healthcare industry recently here in Connecticut, but at the same time you favor the program signed into law by President Obama earlier this year. How can you logically criticize the insurance industry for wanting to increase premiums when they are forced by law to increase coverages?

Blumenthal: And I have consistently, as you know, opposed premium increases by the insurance company that are completely unjustified. Last year a more than 30% rate increase request by Anthem, for example, that was cut down after a public hearing where I cross-examined, literally myself, cross-examined the supposed executive responsible.

Davis: Interruption...Mr. Blumenthal, I'm talking about now.

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Blumenthal: And now I oppose this latest round of rate increases because they are in no way justified by the healthcare reform. Here's the objective evidence: they've asked for rate increases in the range of 20-50%, a nonpartisan authoritative study by the Malman (sp?) Group says that the cost increases, resulting from this healthcare reform, are less than 2%. Two other health insurers Oxford and Connecticare asked for premium increases of less than 1%. We had no oversight, sufficient scrutiny in our state, again and again and again. We have been slathered premium increases because the public has been given no notice, no right to participate, the rate increases go into effect by default. If the insurance commissioner doesn't approve them or rather disapprove them, and one of the weaknesses in the healthcare reform effort which I would correct, I support the healthcare bill but I would correct the problems that now exist in state regulation and either require stronger, more effective protection for the public or make the federal government responsible for protecting the public. Let me just say, I can't believe that I just heard Ms. McMahon brag about this wellness policy at WWE. She requires all wrestlers to sign a death clause that absolves WWE of all responsibility if wrestlers are killed in the ring and if the company is at fault, absolves her company of all responsibility. That wellness policy is not working too well, there have been seven dead wrestlers since she started campaigning for this office and I would suggest that some other policy might be advisable.

Neiburg: Mrs. McMahon:

McMahon: Well interestingly, Mr. Blumenthal, on the healthcare reform bill, when you talk about increasing, fighting for premium increases, etc. I think that gets to the very heart of the issue but you don't understand consequences that are imposed by regulation and new laws that are passed. Clearly if you are adding people to the healthcare rules. If you are increasing mandates on companies, if you are requiring that uh, that doctors aren't going to be paid as much

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then therefore they're going to be leaving the healthcare rules. But if you are adding people to the health rules and increasing mandates on healthcare companies, does it not stand to reason that the premiums would go up and that's a clear example of not understanding intended consequences on rules and regulations. That's just a, it's absolutely what happens when someone whose spent a lifelong career in government goes to Washington to pass more taxes and regulations and they don't understand the impact that it's going to have on business. Because there are implications, there are consequences of passing taxes and regulations when you are looking at what happens when you increase taxes on small businesses by another almost 4%, you're going to take away their incentive to create jobs and to grow. When you look at passing the healthcare mandate that is going to move a half a trillion dollars of payment to Medicare, that is going to hurt our seniors, you have to understand that consequence. When you pass a healthcare bill that doesn't address what it started to do, or what it was stated to do which was bare the cost curve and it's not doing that and we're already seeing premiums increase and double digits and it didn't address tort reform or it didn't address being able to buy insurance across state lines or allowing small businesses to group together to buy insurance, those are things that should have been addressed you know in the healthcare bill. But I think we need to understand what the consequences are of passing regulations and you don't, you don't have that clarity. Relative you know to WWE, there is absolutely a program in place to help the man and woman in WWE, these performers who are in the ring and the consequences of death is a very sad thing when that happens but those were not consequences as a result of ring performance. So Mr. Blumenthal, I would hope that when you go to Washington, you would understand consequences and regulations that you are going to pass.

Blumenthal: If I may respond, uh...

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Neiburg: Actually, can you hold it; because in the interest of time I want you candidates to look what you have left here. So I need to move on to Paul. You're next question for...

Blumenthal: I'm aware of the time and I have 3 minutes, if I may?

Neiburg: Sure.

Blumenthal: I want to say that I well understand the healthcare problem in this country, just as I well understand how people are hasting in this country, economically, without jobs, struggling to stay in their homes. What I see in the healthcare problem is the thousands of people who come to my office after they've been denied healthcare coverage for medically necessary problems. Whether its cancer treatment or stem cell operations or baby formula, and they come to me because the healthcare companies and managed care companies, the health insurers have said to them you have a pre-existing condition or the doctor is out of network or the treatment is experimental. This healthcare reform bill makes sure that no child is denied healthcare coverage when she is sick and that no worker is dropped from healthcare coverage simply because he gets sick and no American family goes into bankruptcy because they can't pay their medical bills and those abusive excuses like pre-existing condititns are not expensive for the healthcare insurance companies to stop and I will fight to stop those kinds of abuses and retain the protections that guarantee that Americans are treated fairly by this healthcare system.

Neiburg: Paul your question to Mrs. McMahon, please. Your question to Mrs. McMahon, please, shh, please.

Paul: Legislation has stalled congress which seems to ask a simple thing, it would require organizations airing political ads to disclose their donors and the amounts they paid. So

far Republicans has blocked this legislation, shouldn't citizens have the right to know who is trying to influence their votes?

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McMahon: Well it's my understanding relative to this particular bill that there are carve-outs, like unions don't have to be disclosed if they are putting up an advertisement and then they're other special interest groups that don't have to disclose and that's my understanding so therefore, I don't think it is full disclosure and I don't think that congress at this point needs to be choosing which group has the right of freedom of speech as the Supreme Court has determined. So I would certainly, I certainly support the fact that there should not be carve-outs therefore those disclosures and that we should move forward with the Supreme Court ruling which is under the First Amendment that companies or corporations would have the right to put those news advisements up and that's the way we should move forward in this campaign. I've funded my campaign myself with money that I've earned. I have not taken any special interests or any PAC money, so my commercials certainly, you know bare the disclaimer that I've approved the message and I have paid for those commercials as I say with money that I've earned without any special interest money and I've done that because I don't want to be beholden to special interests when I go to Washington. I don't uh, I don't want to represent anyone but the people of Connecticut. I would like to be the voice for the people of Connecticut and I think that when you have accepted special interest money, it certainly can at the very, at least sometimes taint your objectivity. So I'm very pleased with money that I've earned that I've been able to fund my campaign.

Paul: Just to clarify, you would support, you would support...

Neiburg: Shh, please, please.

Paul: ... full disclosure if there are no exceptions? Is that your position?

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McMahon: Well I, you know, I think the Supreme Court ruling, you know is pretty clear, that it is said that corporations of companies should be able to advertise you know on uh relative, should be able to advertise for candidates.

Neiburg: Mr. Blumenthal.

Blumenthal: Yes, I support absolute, full disclosure. Very simply, I support the American public knowing what kinds of contributions are made, where they're going and how they may result from special interests actually buying power in Washington. One of the problems in Washington is that it isn't listening to us. And people rightfully are angry that Washington isn't listening and isn't acting to respond to our needs and part of the reason is that the special interests are getting big giveaways and special breaks and tax loopholes and they are buying them invisibly because of the lack of disclosure and the Citizens United case by the United States Supreme Court is unleashing a deluge of special interests, money and the American public has a right to know where it's coming from. And I want to say about my own situation, people of Connecticut know me and they know that no contribution of my campaign has ever influenced what I've done because I've stood up to those special interests. I have taken on the utilities and the pharmaceutical drug companies and the big tobacco companies and the energy interests without hesitation and I have stood for the people of Connecticut putting them first, holding accountable companies that put profits before people and I will continue to do that if I'm lucky enough to be a United States Senator.

Neiburg: Just, just one second. Okay.

McMahon: I'm just confused Mr. Blumenthal as to why you, are then taking special interests money to fund your campaign. When first said you wouldn't, then you did, and now

even the National Democratic Party is coming in buying lots of commercials for you to air in the market place so I'm just a little bit confused about your not taking special interest money.

Blumenthal: Well, you know, Ms. McMahon.

Neiburg: Please, please.

Blumenthal: You know the people of Connecticut know me and they have taken the measure, they've taken the measure of my character over 20 years in the fights that I've fought and won, the results that I've gotten and the battles that I've taken on for their interests. And they know that I have built my life and spent my life building the future of families in Connecticut while you have built your fortune putting profits first.

Neiburg: Please, please. Ladies and gentlemen, please, please. Alright, I'm, in the interest of time, Paul you get the last question and candidates you don't have much time left so Paul you're going to address Mr. Blumenthal and you may not get the 3 minutes, Mr.

Blumenthal, bear with us. Go ahead Paul.

Paul: Alright Mr. Blumenthal...

Neiburg: In fact you two got about a minute each, make it fast.

Paul: Uh, the President says global warming is too important an issue to give up on so he plans to keep pushing his energy agenda including cap and trade to reduce carbon emissions. Will you be fighting with him on that issue?

Blumenthal: We need a National Energy Policy and it has to consist of cutting utility costs, our electricity bills are way too high, creating green jobs which we can do for example as we've done in our fuel cell industry and making out of state polluters pay for their contamination of our air and water and rewarding our state for being relatively clean burning. Cap and trade is dead, it died in the last Congress, let's be clear, I supported the cap and trade concept in a letter

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that I wrote advocating that it be changed to make it better for Connecticut but I oppose a National Energy Tax and I believe that we need to move forward with a National Energy Policy that creates green jobs here which we can do for example as the fuel cell energy corporation in Torrington has done. I am not in favor of a National Energy Tax, the attack by my opponent on me is false, it's been called misleading by the Hartford Courant and I believe that we can do better as a nation to hold polluters accountable and stop the kind of misguided energy project that we almost saw in the middle of Long Island, with Broad Water.

Neiburg: Mr. Blumenthal.

Blumenthal: My opponent doesn't know whether she would have fought Broad Water.

Neiburg: Mrs. McMahon.

Blumenthal: I am proud of having fought and won that fight.

Neiburg: This is the final answer. Go ahead.

McMahon: Mr. Blumenthal I just want to go back for a moment when you talked about the people of Connecticut know you. They, they know now that you have a difficult time telling the truth. They know that you had a hard time...

Neiburg: Please, please. Shhh, please, ladies and gentlemen, please.

McMahon: They knew that you did not tell the truth on several occasions and then after you apologized about Vietnam, then you also did not tell the truth in a couple of other occasions relative to your, your status on your draft number or the deferment. You then said that you were not going to Calgary for a fundraiser and point of fact, you did and then you later admitted that you were going to Calgary for a fundraiser. The invitation clearly showed it was a trial lawyer fundraiser that you were being in and you would get a certain percentage of the, uh, of the amounts that were raised for that night. So you do have a credibility issue, the people of

Connecticut know you, but I think what they know now is that you have great difficulty in always telling the truth.

Neiburg: Thirty more seconds. Thirty more seconds Mr. Blumenthal.

Blumenthal: I will uh, I must say, I will not be lectured on straight talk. . .

McMahon: I'm not lecturing.

Neiburg: Please.

Blumenthal: From a women who has failed to, anyone who has been, has failed to be straight with the people of Connecticut on...

Neiburg: Alright Mr. Blumenthal I'm going to have to leave...

Blumenthal: The issues of minimum wage, Social Security and healthcare.

Neiburg: In the interest of time, ladies and gentlemen, please, please, so we can, thank you. Alright closing statements, you each have two minutes. Mrs. McMahon you are first.

McMahon: Well once again thank all of you for participating in our debate tonight. Those of you who are here and those of you who are watching at home, I got into this race because our economy is in shambles, people are out of work, families are hurting, nest eggs are devastated and there aren't enough people in Washington that know how to create jobs and I want to make sure that the American dream is here for my grandchildren and for more generations to come. I'm a mother and a grandmother and a wife, I've struggled building a career while raising a family, and neither job was easy. I've known lean times and I've known prosperity, I've been the CEO in a tough business and I've made tough decisions. The choice in this election on November 2 are absolutely clear. Mr. Blumenthal has been a lifelong politician and in government all of his life. I'm a business women that's created over 500 jobs here in our state. He wants to grow government, I want to grow the economy but they both can't grow at the

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same time. He wants to raise taxes, I want to keep taxes low but keep the money in the hands of our families in Connecticut and business that do create jobs, but we have to change the direction that our government is taking our country. We absolutely must incentivize small businesses so that jobs will grow in the private sector. And I've spend the past year traveling around our state, talking to many of you almost on a daily basis and I have learned that there are many of you who are hurting and as a Senator I want that young mother with two children who was widowed as a result of that Afghanistan war and fighting for her benefits. I want the veteran fighting red tape and I want the teachers struggling for innovation to know that they have a champion and for our seniors to know that they will be protected. This is the greatest country on earth, the opportunity here abounds, we just have to write our course and we can.

Neiburg: Thank you, thank you very much, Mrs. McMahon. Mr. Blumenthal, two minutes please, please. Ladies and gentlemen please, Mr. Blumenthal two minutes.

Blumenthal: Thank you and thank you again to everyone who has participated tonight. This election like all elections is about the future and it offers a clear choice. My opponent has said that she is different and she is different from me. I am proud of having devoted my life to helping people through public service. I am proud of having helped Kathy Platt when her business at Aldermann Motors was about to be shut down by General Motors and we saved those jobs. I'm proud to have stood with Billy Clark when his jobs and hundreds of other jobs at Pratt & Whitney were going to be shipped abroad or ended, illegally and we stood side-by-side and I'm proud of having stood with Laura Austin when her insurer was going to stop providing the baby formula that she needed. I am proud of standing strong and helping people, not putting profits before people and I think the question for the people of Connecticut will be if my

opponent has treated the people who work for her the way she has, how will she treat the people who vote for her? I am proud...

Neiburg: Shh...please.

Blumenthal: I am proud of having fought for the people of Connecticut and you don't need to simply listen to me, look at my record of action. If I were United States Senator, I would have opposed the bailout because it did too much for Wall Street and not enough for those small businesses that really need help. I would oppose the loopholes in our taxation laws that encourages jobs to go overseas. I would stand for a middle class tax cut now in fairness and also because it's the right thing for our economy. Again and again and again, I have stood for the people of Connecticut. They can count on me; you can count on me to be in your corner and to fight for you.

Neiburg: Mr. Blumenthal, thank you very much and Mrs. McMahon, thank you very much.

Neiburg: Shh...Alright, in the interest of time on behalf of the League of Women Voters, to our panelists, to our candidates, I am Ann Neiburg, thank you for letting us be here with you tonight and thank you for making this a most interesting night. Good night.

THE END

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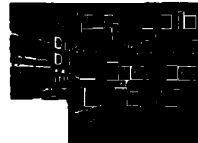


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November 2, 2010 at 8:23pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (220) · Share

Stand Up For WWE The WWE Road Crew Stands Up For WWE. For more, visit <http://StandUpForWWE.com/> or follow us on Twitter at <http://Twitter.com/StandUpForWWE> today.



The WWE Road Crew Stands Up For WWE [HD]
Length: 1:53

November 2, 2010 at 8:17pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (242) · Share

Stand Up For WWE WWE's 3rd Generation Superstars talk about growing up in the WWE family. For more, visit <http://StandUpForWWE.com/> or follow us on Twitter at <http://Twitter.com/StandUpForWWE> today.



Stand Up For WWE: 3rd Generation Superstars [HD]
Length: 2:40

November 2, 2010 at 8:15pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (272) · Share

Stand Up For WWE We've heard your voices on YouTube, WWE Universe! Now, we feature you Standing Up For WWE! For more, visit <http://StandUpForWWE.com/> and follow us at <http://Twitter.com/StandUpForWWE> today!



The WWE Universe Stands Up For WWE [HD]
Length: 2:08

November 1, 2010 at 11:27pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (368) · Share

Stand Up For WWE Kids of all ages Stand Up for WWE. For more, visit <http://StandUpForWWE.com/> or follow us on Twitter at <http://Twitter.com/StandUpForWWE> today!



Stand Up For WWE: Kids of all ages Stand Up for WWE [HD]
Length: 1:17

November 1, 2010 at 6:37pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (208) · Share

Stand Up For WWE "This is clearly heavy-handed bullying from big government and would appear to be desperate political activity in closely contested elections in Connecticut," said Vince McMahon, Chairman and CEO World Wrestling Entertainment. "This is consistent with some Attorney Generals' tactics that threaten litigation for political gain."

Stand Up for WWE: WWE threatened by U.S. Department of Justice
www.wwe.com

STAMFORD, Conn. — Not so coincidentally after President Obama's visit to Connecticut this past weekend and on the eve of the state elections, WWE is being threatened by the U.S. Department of Justice of the Obama Administration with potential criminal activity for distributing WWE T-shirts near sale...

November 1, 2010 at 6:06pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (563) · Share

Stand Up For WWE The WWE Universe goes crazy for Fan Appreciation Day Oct. 30 in Hartford, Conn.



The WWE Universe goes crazy for Fan Appreciation Day [HD]
Length: 1:18

October 31, 2010 at 7:28pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (573) · Share

Stand Up For WWE WWE Chairman and CEO Vince McMahon thanks the WWE Universe and delivers a special message at "Fan Appreciation Day" ... For more information, visit <http://StandUpForWWE.com/> today!



Vince McMahon delivers a special message at Fan Appreciation Day [HD]
Length: 1:07

October 31, 2010 at 4:15pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (375) · Share

11044303576

2/7/2011

Stand Up For WWE (5)

Stand Up For WWE Children of WWE employees Stand Up for WWE. For more information, visit <http://StandUpForWWE.com/> or follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/StandUpForWWE> today!



Children of WWE employees Stand Up for WWE (HD)
Length: 1:32

October 29, 2010 at 5:49pm • Like • Comment • View Feedback (296) • Share

Stand Up For WWE WWE Superstars and Divas describe how it feels to make a positive impact worldwide. For more information, visit <http://StandUpForWWE.com/> or follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/StandUpForWWE> today!



WWE Superstars describe how it feels to make a positive impact (HD)
Length: 2:14

October 29, 2010 at 3:00pm • Like • Comment • View Feedback (587) • Share

Stand Up For WWE To celebrate the victory of restoring voters' right to wear WWE clothing at the polls, WWE will be giving away WWE merchandise near select Connecticut poll locations on Election Day this Tuesday. For more info, visit WWE SmackDown 'Our Vote and Stand Up For WWE on Facebook!



Stand Up For WWE: Free WWE merchandise at Connecticut polls

www.wwe.com

STAMFORD, Conn. - To celebrate the victory of restoring voters' right to wear WWE clothing at the polls, World Wrestling Entertainment will be giving away WWE merchandise near select Connecticut poll locations on Election Day, this Tuesday, Nov. 2. "I can't think of a better way for WWE fans to cele...

October 28, 2010 at 4:24pm • Like • Comment • View Feedback (493) • Share

Stand Up For WWE Superstars and Divas describe the WWE family bond. For more info, visit <http://StandUpForWWE.com/> or follow us on Twitter at <http://Twitter.com/StandUpForWWE>.



Superstars and Divas describe the WWE family bond (HD)
Length: 1:51

October 27, 2010 at 8:14pm • Like • Comment • View Feedback (664) • Share

Stand Up For WWE Employees discuss the positive impact WWE has had on their lives. For more info, visit <http://StandUpForWWE.com/> or follow us on Twitter at <http://Twitter.com/StandUpForWWE>.



Employees discuss the positive impact WWE has had on their lives (HD)
Length: 1:19

October 27, 2010 at 7:11pm • Like • Comment • View Feedback (501) • Share

Stand Up For WWE And now, a message from the greatest Intercontinental Champion of All Time!! The Honky Tonk Man will Stand Up For WWE!!



VIDEO: The Honky Tonk Man Stands Up For WWE
www.youtube.com

October 27, 2010 at 4:37pm • Like • Comment • View Feedback (451) • Share

Stand Up For WWE "I am pleased that Connecticut voters have had their freedom of expression and their right to vote restored," said Vince McMahon, Chairman and CEO, World Wrestling Entertainment.



Stand Up for WWE: WWE makes Connecticut Secretary of State back down

www.wwe.com

STAMFORD, Conn. - "The current Connecticut Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz issued an un-American, unconstitutional and discriminatory directive prohibiting voters from wearing WWE merchandise at the polls. Attorney General Richard Blumenthal should have immediately stepped in to enforce the law. A...

October 26, 2010 at 7:58pm • Like • Comment • View Feedback (662) • Share

Stand Up For WWE Vince McMahon, WWE Chairman and CEO: "On behalf

11044303577

2/7/2011

Stand Up For WWE (5)

of myself, my company, WWE fans and any Connecticut citizen who wants to exercise their constitutional right to vote, I have filed a lawsuit today asserting that Susan Bysiewicz's directive that allows poll workers to refuse registered voters wearing WWE merchandise the r...

See More



Stand Up for WWE Connecticut Secretary of State sued for censorship and discrimination
www.wwe.com

STAMFORD, Conn. - "On behalf of myself, my company, WWE fans and any Connecticut citizen who wants to exercise their constitutional right to vote, I have filed a lawsuit today asserting that Susan Bysiewicz's directive that allows poll workers to refuse registered voters wearing WWE merchandise the ...

October 26, 2010 at 4:16pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (851) · Share

Stand Up For WWE Vince McMahon has another message for the WWE Universe. For more information, visit <http://StandUpForWWE.com/> today! To share your message of support with the WWE Chairman, post your message on our Facebook Wall at <http://Facebook.com/StandUpForWWE>



Vince McMahon has another message for the WWE Universe [HD]
Length: 2:01

October 26, 2010 at 3:37pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (809) · Share

Stand Up For WWE John Cena and his fellow WWE Superstars and Divas "Stand Up for WWE". For more information how you can show your support for WWE, visit <http://StandUpForWWE.com/> today!



Superstars and Divas "Stand Up for WWE" [HD]
Length: 2:11

October 26, 2010 at 1:33pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (1,292) · Share

Stand Up For WWE WWE Chairman & CEO Vince McMahon defends the WWE Universe's right to vote. "Denying our fans the right to vote, denying them their First Amendment rights, regardless if they are Democrat, Republican or Independent, is un-American, unconstitutional and blatantly discriminatory."



Vince McMahon defends the WWE Universe's right to vote [HD]
Length: 1:33

October 22, 2010 at 9:25pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (1,098) · Share

Stand Up For WWE "Denying our fans the right to vote, denying them their First Amendment rights, regardless if they are Democrat, Republican or Independent, is un-American, unconstitutional and blatantly discriminatory," said Vince McMahon, Chairman and CEO of WWE. For more on how you can Stand Up For WWE, visit <http://StandUpForWWE.com/> today!



Stand Up For WWE State Of Connecticut Threatens WWE Fans' Right To Vote
www.wwe.com

STAMFORD, Conn. - "Tonight for World Wrestling Entertainment fans to vote was threatened today by Connecticut Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz, who gave the authority to local poll workers to determine that if anyone shows up to the polls on November 2 wearing any WWE merchandise, whether it is a...

October 22, 2010 at 6:59pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (657) · Share

Stand Up For WWE "The way (WWE) is portrayed is 180 degrees from what the company is and what it does. Its commitment to the community, its commitment to its fans, its commitment to its employees is excellent." For more on Stand Up For WWE, visit <http://StandUpForWWE.com/>



Employees discuss WWE's commitment to its staff [HD]
Length: 1:45

October 22, 2010 at 5:32pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (469) · Share

Stand Up For WWE "To be a little boy and to watch what you feel is the greatest show on earth, and then to be a part of it ... the feeling is indescribable" - Freddie Prinze, Jr. For more on Stand Up For WWE, visit <http://StandUpForWWE.com/>

Stand Up For WWE Celebrities discuss the family atmosphere that is WWE
www.youtube.com

11044303578

only atmosphere that is WWE

October 21, 2010 at 5:26pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (476) · Share

Stand Up For WWE Hey WWE Universe, THANK YOU for Standing Up for WWE! We've created this special avatar photo for you to use on your Facebook profile, and share your WWE pride! Just right-click on image, then select "Save image as..." and save the image to your desktop for use on your profile!



Fan photos

October 21, 2010 at 2:19pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (404) · Share

Stand Up For WWE World Wrestling Entertainment CEO and Chairman Vince McMahon thanks you, the WWE Universe that's proud to "Stand Up For WWE." And he's standing up for you too, answering the outpour of responses sent by you via Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.



Vince McMahon thanks the WWE Universe for Standing Up [HD]
Length: 1:44

October 20, 2010 at 9:03pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (384) · Share

Stand Up For WWE World Wrestling Entertainment CEO and Chairman Vince McMahon thanks you, the WWE Universe that's proud to "Stand Up For WWE." And he's standing up for you too, answering the outpour of responses sent by you via Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Watch The Chairman's message below.



Stand Up For WWE: Vince McMahon thanks the WWE Universe for Standing Up
www.youtube.com
World Wrestling Entertainment CEO and Chairman Vince McMahon thanks you, the WWE Universe that's proud to "Stand Up For WWE." And he's standing up for you too, answering the outpour of responses sent by you via Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

October 20, 2010 at 9:01pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (600) · Share

Stand Up For WWE From Chairman/CEO Vince McMahon: "WWE will fervently fight against any attempt to muzzle or trample its First Amendment rights. Our fans, employees and performers are united in this grassroots effort to "Stand Up For WWE."



Stand Up for WWE: WWE defends itself
www.wwe.com

"World Wrestling Entertainment will not be bullied or intimidated by whining allegations intended to censor our freedom of speech," said Vince McMahon, Chairman and CEO of WWE. WWE will fervently fight against any attempt to muzzle or trample its First Amendment rights. Our fans, employees and performers...

October 20, 2010 at 5:05pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (789) · Share

Stand Up For WWE Did you know that WWE was named as one of Forbes Magazine's 200 Best Small Companies in 2008 and 2009? Find out many other great facts about WWE as you Stand Up For WWE and help set the record straight.



Stand Up for WWE > Did You Know?

www.wwe.com

All WWE programming is rated PG. WWE has been publicly traded since 1998, listed on the New York Stock Exchange in 2008. WWE is broadcast in 30 languages to more than 145 countries.

October 20, 2010 at 1:36pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (741) · Share

Stand Up For WWE Many unfair and biased accusations have been directed at WWE and the WWE Universe. Stand Up For WWE and help fight back against these claims! Visit <http://StandUpForWWE.com/> today to find out what you can do to show your WWE pride!

Stand Up for WWE: Setting The Record Straight
www.wwe.com

Stand Up For WWE (5)

Accusations that the company...has been criticized for violent and sexually suggestive programming. Peter Waldman - The Wall Street Journal - July 2, 2010 ... Truth: 87 percent of WWE content is appropriate for families. (Of the 14 million weekly viewers in the United States that watch WWE...

October 20, 2010 at 12:01pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (508) · Share

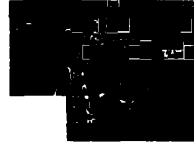
Stand Up For WWE Know who's standing up for WWE? Its proud employees, including the more than 110 who have been a part of the company for more than 10 years. Hear what they have to say and why they Stand Up For WWE.



WWE on YouTube: Employees Stand Up for the WWE
www.youtube.com
Know who's standing up for WWE? Its proud employees, including the more than 110 who have been a part of the company for more than 10 years. Hear what they have to say and why they Stand Up For WWE.

October 19, 2010 at 3:27pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (658) · Share

Stand Up For WWE Celebrities of all kinds - including Jeremy Piven, Jewel, Florence Henderson and Ryan Phillippe - have felt the WWE experience firsthand. Watch what they have to say about the power of WWE.

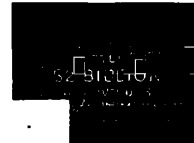


Stand Up For WWE: Celebrities experience the power of WWE
www.youtube.com
"I don't like it when things like this are denigrated. [WWE] is fun. And I'm telling you, there's a rite of passage, you can see it between those fathers and sons in the crowd. I dig that whole feeling." - Dennis Miller

October 19, 2010 at 12:53pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (577) · Share

Stand Up For WWE Broadcast in 145 countries worldwide, translated in 30 languages, WWE is watched by more than 14.4 million people each week in the USA alone, with more than 300 Live Events worldwide each year. WWE IS a GLOBAL phenomenon! Click LIKE if you've attended a WWE Live Event in the past two years! Visit <http://act.ly/2ig> to s...

See More



WWE on YouTube: A special look at WWE -- a global phenomenon
www.youtube.com
Broadcast in 145 countries worldwide, translated in 30 languages, WWE is watched by more than 14.4 million people each week in the USA alone, with more than 300 Live Events worldwide each year. WWE IS a GLOBAL phenomenon!

October 18, 2010 at 8:49pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (905) · Share

Stand Up For WWE The official Stand Up For WWE Twitter petition is live... Visit <http://act.ly/2ig> to sign it and "Stand Up For WWE" against unfair and biased attacks!



Stand Up For WWE: Sign the Twitter petition!
act.ly

WWE invites fans to voice their support for the company because it has come under unfair and biased attack from certain politicians and media outlets. WWE will correct factual inaccuracies that have been repeated about the company during this election season. "The nearly 600 full-time WWE employees...

October 18, 2010 at 2:51pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (477) · Share

Stand Up For WWE And now, a special message to the WWE Universe from WWE Chairman/CEO Vince McMahon... Stand Up For WWE!



Vince McMahon addresses the WWE Universe
www.youtube.com
Vince McMahon addresses the WWE Universe

October 18, 2010 at 2:25pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (638) · Share

Stand Up For WWE WWE Get R.E.A.L. Read's WrestleMania Reading Challenge is underway, encouraging children in Grades 5-12 to read their way to WWE WrestleMania XXVIII! Visit <http://WrestlemaniaReadingChallenge.com/> today for signup details!



WWE In Your Corner: Take the WrestleMania Reading Challenge
www.youtube.com
WWE In Your Corner: Take the WrestleMania Reading Challenge

October 18, 2010 at 2:19pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (795) · Share

2/7/2011

Stand Up For WWE (5)



Stand Up For WWE Follow Stand Up For WWE on Twitter today!



Stand Up For WWE (StandUpForWWE) on Twitter
twitter.com

The official Twitter account for Stand Up For WWE - Show your support for WWE inside and outside the ring!

October 15, 2010 at 6:35pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (126) · Share



Stand Up For WWE

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October 15, 2010 at 5:15pm · Like · Comment · View Feedback (247) · Share

RECENT ACTIVITY

Stand Up For WWE edited their Website, Company Overview and Mission.

Stand Up For WWE changed their Founded.

Stand Up For WWE joined Facebook.

Facebook © 2011 · English (US)

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Chat (23)

11044303581

Stand Up For WWE (Twitter)

Congratulations to the WWE Universe!! Stand Up For WWE won the "Most Creative Social Media Campaign" award at the... <http://fb.me/RBHQLaGT> 11:54 PM Jan 6th

Thank you to each and every one of the @WWEUniverse that voted for us in the #MashableAwards! We greatly appreciate it!! #WWE 9:41 PM Jan 6th

CONGRATS @StandUpForWWE for winning Most Creative Social Media Campaign for 2010!!! #WWE #MashableAwards 9:40 PM Jan 6th

Tonight at International CES in Las Vegas, Stand Up For WWE is a finalist for the "Most Creative Social Media... <http://fb.me/yboB6DXv> 2:30 PM Jan 6th

Watch the #MashableAwards LIVE at 10 PM ET on <http://Mashable.com> to root for @JohnCena & @WWE! FB RSVP: <http://www.me/3zBZ3> #CES 1:45 PM Jan 6th

Tonight at #MashableAwards at #CES: @StandUpForWWE is finalist for "Most Creative Social Media Campaign" of 2010! #WWE 1:40 PM Jan 6th

Happy New Year @WWEUniverse!! Have a great 2011!! #WWE 9:00 PM Dec 31st, 2010

Thanks to all of you who voted for @WWE, @JohnCena & @StandUpForWWE in the 2010 #MashableAwards. Winners are announced Jan. 6 at #CES 9:12 AM Dec 16th, 2010

Vote for @StandUpForWWE as Most Creative Social Media Campaign of 2010 at #MashableAwards! Vote: <http://qw.ly/3oGHi> 6:54 PM Dec 13th, 2010

Thank you WWE Universe for "Standing Up" for WWE! Click here to nominate Stand Up For WWE as Best Social Media... <http://fb.me/MjSkh5ga> 8:44 PM Nov 16th, 2010

WWE.com VIDEO: Help John Cena grant wishes with Delta and the Make-A-Wish Foundation <http://ow.ly/38P5Q> 10:37 AM Nov 12th, 2010

VIDEO: The WWE Road Crew talks about life on the road and traveling around the world. <http://ow.ly/33AfU> 1:53 AM Nov 3rd, 2010

The WWE Road Crew talks about life on the road and traveling around the world. For more info, visit... <http://fb.me/KBfxsfgh> 1:39 AM Nov 3rd, 2010

VIDEO: WWE's 3rd-generation Superstars discuss growing up with WWE. <http://ow.ly/33uK0> #StandUpForWWE 7:54 PM Nov 2nd, 2010

VIDEO: The WWE Road Crew Stands Up For WWE <http://ow.ly/33uIg> #StandUpForWWE 7:53 PM Nov 2nd, 2010

The WWE Road Crew talks about their family bond. For more, visit <http://StandUpForWWE.com/> or follow us on Twitter... <http://fb.me/KliYjRT9> 7:37 PM Nov 2nd, 2010

WWE's 3rd Generation Superstars talk about growing up in the WWE family. For more, visit <http://StandUpForWWE.com..> <http://fb.me/HjHhok35J> 7:24 PM Nov 2nd, 2010

Help nominate @StandUpForWWE as "Must Creative Social Media Campaign" at 4th Annual @Mashable Awards! Click here: <http://ow.ly/32XDo> #WWE 12:51 AM Nov 2nd, 2010

We've heard your voices on YouTube, WWE Universe! Now, we feature you Standing Up For WWE! For more, visit... <http://fb.me/KEABfRv6> 10:35 PM Nov 1st, 2010

VIDEO: Kids of all ages Stand Up for WWE <http://ow.ly/32Oxz> #StandUpForWWE 5:54 PM Nov 1st, 2010

WWE employees' children explain why their dads have the greatest job in the world. For more, visit... <http://fb.me/MspouD4l> 5:41 PM Nov 1st, 2010

"This is clearly heavy-handed bullying from big government and would appear to be desperate political activity in... <http://fb.me/NBFPSSJR> 5:06 PM Nov 1st, 2010

U.S. Dept. of Justice threatens WWE on eve of elections. <http://ow.ly/32OC9> #2010 #CT 4:38 PM Nov 1st, 2010

The WWE Universe goes crazy for Fan Appreciation Day Oct. 30 in Hartford, Conn. <http://fb.me/MULiXUMA> Sunday, October 31, 2010 7:31:55 PM

WWE Chairman and CEO Vince McMahon thanks the WWE Universe and delivers a special message at "Fan Appreciation... <http://fb.me/GYbAxaOF> Sunday, October 31, 2010 4:23:52 PM

VIDEO: WWE Chairman & CEO Vince McMahon has a special message for the WWE Universe at Fan Appreciation Day. <http://ow.ly/323op> #WWEFan Saturday, October 30, 2010 11:07:42 PM

WWE Chairman and CEO Vince McMahon delivers a message to the WWE Universe at "Fan Appreciation Day" at the XL... <http://fb.me/vhWx2Zit> Saturday, October 30, 2010 11:00:38 PM

VIDEO: Children of WWE employees Stand Up For WWE! <http://ow.ly/31KrS> #StandUpForWWE Friday, October 29, 2010 6:08:08 PM

Children of WWE employees Stand Up for WWE. For more information, visit <http://StandUpForWWE.com/> or follow us on... <http://fb.me/IOfWbXYf> Friday, October 29, 2010 5:53:59 PM

VIDEO: WWE Superstars and Divas describe how it feels to make a positive impact worldwide. <http://fb.me/xY3FwgKE> #StandUpForWWE Friday, October 29, 2010 3:18:28 PM

WWE Superstars and Divas describe how it feels to make a positive impact worldwide. For more information, visit... <http://fb.me/xY3FwgKE> Friday, October 29, 2010 3:07:43 PM

WWE will be giving away merchandise near select CT poll locations on Election Day, this Tuesday, Nov. 2. Details: <http://ow.ly/316ZQ> Thursday, October 28, 2010 4:33:37 PM

To celebrate the victory of restoring voters' right to wear WWE clothing at the polls, WWE will be giving away WWE... <http://fb.me/L4XuhFrk> Thursday, October 28, 2010 4:24:24 PM

VIDEO: Superstars and Divas describe the WWE family bond. <http://ow.ly/30AvY> #StandUpForWWE Wednesday, October 27, 2010 8:50:42 PM

Superstars and Divas describe the WWE family bond. For more info, visit <http://StandUpForWWE.com/> or follow us on... <http://fb.me/KTkXvDR9> Wednesday, October 27, 2010 8:24:58 PM

RT to sign: I am proud to @StandUpForWWE and defend @WWE from unfair & biased attacks! <http://act.ly/2ig> #WWE Wednesday, October 27, 2010 8:03:01 PM

VIDEO: Employees discuss the positive impact WWE has had on their lives: <http://ow.ly/30zzP> #StandUpForWWE Wednesday, October 27, 2010 8:02:28 PM

Employees discuss the positive impact WWE has had on their lives. For more info, visit <http://StandUpForWWE.com> or... <http://fb.me/MVkfFr19Q> Wednesday, October 27, 2010 7:46:37 PM

And now, a message from the greatest Intercontinental Champion of All Time!! The Honky Tonk Man will Stand Up For... <http://fb.me/Jc9awpMe> Wednesday, October 27, 2010 4:37:10 PM

WWE makes Connecticut Secretary of State back down, lifts WWE clothing restrictions at polls: <http://ow.ly/2ZVZu> #StandUpForWWE Tuesday, October 26, 2010 8:02:08 PM

I am pleased that Connecticut voters have had their freedom of expression and their right to vote restored," said... <http://fb.me/MLzGQFYA> Tuesday, October 26, 2010 7:58:37 PM

WWE.com NEWS: Connecticut Secretary of State sued for censorship and discrimination <http://ow.ly/2ZPJ5> #CT #StandUpForWWE Tuesday, October 26, 2010 4:18:09 PM
Vince McMahon, WWE Chairman and CEO: "On behalf of myself, my company, WWE fans and any Connecticut citizen who... <http://fb.me/E2CHDHWZ> Tuesday, October 26, 2010 4:16:56 PM

VIDEO: WWE Chairman Vince McMahon has another message for the WWE Universe: <http://ow.ly/2ZONV> #StandUpForWWE Tuesday, October 26, 2010 3:51:31 PM

Vince McMahon has another message for the WWE Universe. For more information, visit <http://StandUpForWWE.com> today! <http://fb.me/KVa1OFoE> Tuesday, October 26, 2010 3:42:28 PM

VIDEO: WWE Superstars and Divas Stand Up For WWE: <http://ow.ly/2ZJSg> #StandUpForWWE Tuesday, October 26, 2010 1:50:58 PM

John Cena and his fellow WWE Superstars and Divas "Stand Up for WWE" <http://fb.me/CywvafKr> Tuesday, October 26, 2010 1:46:01 PM

Also, Thank you to @EveMarieTorres, @EzeKielwwe, & @TheCurtHawkins for signing our #StandUpForWWE petition at <http://act.ly/2ig>! Saturday, October 23, 2010 12:33:11 AM

Thanks @RealMalina, @JerryLawler, @TheBethPhoenix, @JerryLawler, @WWEGoldust for signing our #StandUpForWWE petition at <http://act.ly/2ig>! Saturday, October 23, 2010 12:30:07 AM

VIDEO: WWE Chairman & CEO Vince McMahon defends the WWE Universe's right to vote: <http://ow.ly/2Y6bn> #StandUpForWWE #CT Friday, October 22, 2010 9:34:57 PM via HootSuite

WWE Chairman & CEO Vince McMahon defends the WWE Universe's right to vote. "Denying our fans the right to vote,... <http://fb.me/JFK4OfjV> Friday, October 22, 2010 9:30:39 PM via Facebook

WWE.com NEWS: State Of Connecticut Threatens WWE Fans' Right To Vote: <http://ow.ly/2Y3R0> #StandUpForWWE #CT Friday, October 22, 2010 7:01:38 PM via HootSuite

"Denying our fans the right to vote, denying them their First Amendment rights, regardless if they are Democrat,... <http://fb.me/KuVfeBst> Friday, October 22, 2010 6:57:05 PM via Facebook

VIDEO: WWE employees discuss the company's commitment to its staff <http://ow.ly/2Y2ss> #StandUpForWWE Friday, October 22, 2010 5:54:04 PM via HootSuite

"The way (WWE) is portrayed is 180 degrees from what the company is and what it does. Its commitment to the... <http://fb.me/Kudsx9Qn> Friday, October 22, 2010 5:37:19 PM

People from all six continents have signed the @StandUpForWWE petition! <http://act.ly/petitions/3256/map> ... Sign here: <http://act.ly/2ig> Thursday, October 21, 2010 12:46:19 AM

VIDEO: WWE Chairman Vince McMahon thanks the WWE Universe for Standing Up for WWE! <http://ow.ly/2WOGK> @StandUpForWWE Wednesday, October 20, 2010 9:15:51 PM via HootSuite

World Wrestling Entertainment CEO and Chairman Vince McMahon thanks you, the WWE Universe that's proud to "Stand... <http://fb.me/yTlriGZ> Wednesday, October 20, 2010 9:10:36 PM

If you @StandUpForWWE, plz support WWE's SmackDown Your Vote (@WWEVote) efforts and the WrestleMania Banding Challenge (@WWEReads) Wednesday, October 20, 2010 6:47:49 PM via HootSuite

Secretary of State and former Senator Hillary Clinton addresses the WWE Universe <http://fb.me/iK7GIIxA> Wednesday, October 20, 2010 6:08:13 PM via Facebook

Senator John McCain addresses the WWE Universe <http://fb.me/ue1lMg9O> Wednesday, October 20, 2010 6:05:25 PM via Facebook

WWE defends the @StandUpForWWE campaign from more false allegations <http://ow.ly/2WLah> Wednesday, October 20, 2010 5:09:02 PM via HootSuite

From Chairman/CEO Vince McMahon: "WWE will fervently fight against any attempt to muzzle or trample its First... <http://fb.me/HqHdxV6y> Wednesday, October 20, 2010 5:05:50 PM via Facebook

Stand Up for WWE: Celebrities discuss experiencing the power of WWE <http://fb.me/sXP3zFFm> Wednesday, October 20, 2010 3:46:15 PM via Facebook

A Special Look at WWE: A Global Phenomenon <http://fb.me/Kl8sX1hC> Wednesday, October 20, 2010 3:09:23 PM via Facebook

Employees Stand Up for the WWE <http://fb.me/zTwlG2yS> Wednesday, October 20, 2010 2:52:54 PM via Facebook

WWE Chairman Vince McMahon addresses the WWE Universe <http://fb.me/JfBDsmGN> Wednesday, October 20, 2010 2:51:22 PM via Facebook

Thanks Glamazon! RT @thebethphoenix: RT @WWE: I am proud to @StandUpForWWE and defend @WWE from unfair attacks! [#WWE](http://act.ly/2ig) Wednesday, October 20, 2010 2:35:35 PM via HootSuite

WWE Universe, How are you "Standing Up" For WWE? Tweet to tell us! #StandUpForWWE Wednesday, October 20, 2010 2:34:07 PM via HootSuite

The @StandUpForWWE Twitter petition is the most-signed petition in @Actly history! Thank you! Sign it here: [#WWE](http://act.ly/2ig) Wednesday, October 20, 2010 2:29:24 PM via HootSuite

Share your @StandUpForWWE message with the @WWEUniverse now on our Facebook Wall at <http://Facebook.com/StandUpForWWE> Wednesday, October 20, 2010 1:59:11 PM via HootSuite

Did you know that WWE was named as one of Forbes Magazine's 200 Best Small Companies in 2008 and 2009? Find out... <http://fb.me/KIRg4685> Wednesday, October 20, 2010 1:36:29 PM via Facebook

Many unfair and biased accusations have been directed at WWE and the WWE Universe. Stand Up For WWE and help fight... <http://fb.me/Kz8hTxRE> Wednesday, October 20, 2010 12:01:48 AM

Many famous personalities have been part of the WWE family. Listen to some of their lasting impressions from their... <http://fb.me/CyWlX5jW> Tuesday, October 19, 2010 12:34:24 PM

The official Stand Up For WWE Twitter petition is live ... Visit <http://act.ly/2ig> to sign it and "Stand Up For... <http://fb.me/KxgXuWzZ> 1:51 PM Oct 18th, 2010

Watch a special video message from WWE Chairman Vince McMahon about @StandUpForWWE: <http://t.co/m1NuOGy> #WWE 1:42 PM Oct 18th, 2010

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Exhibit G
“Setting the Record Straight” site
on WWE.com

Setting The Record Straight

Written: October 18, 2010

Accusation:

"...its reputation as a business that turned a blind eye to steroid use and other activities by its wrestlers that some critics say have contributed to the deaths of a high number of them."

Editorial - Connecticut Hearst Newspapers - Jan. 4, 2010

Truth:

In virtually all instances, WWE is being blamed for the deaths of performers who were no longer affiliated with WWE in any way at the time of their deaths.

Since the formation of the company in 1982, five wrestlers have passed away while under contract with WWE. According to coroner reports, one individual died by accident, one by suicide and three by natural causes, specifically coronary artery disease.

The Talent Wellness Program, implemented by WWE, calls for regular cardiovascular testing and monitoring, ImPACT™ testing for brain function, annual physicals, medical referrals and blood screening of WWE Talent, as well as random drug testing.

WWE's Talent Wellness Policy strictly prohibits the use of anabolic steroids and performance enhancing drugs, masking agents, the abuse of prescription medications, and the use, possession and/or distribution of illegal drugs.

WWE often assists and funds talent who may have substance abuse problems complete drug rehabilitation at no cost to them. WWE is the only entertainment company that provides this type of assistance and ongoing support to its former performers.

Accusation:

"In 2009, the year that WWE received all \$9.8 million in film tax credits, the company laid off about 18 percent of its global workforce, or about 60 workers."

Eric Gershon - Hartford Courant - Oct. 1, 2010

Truth:

The company participates in the tax credit program which is designed to grow the film and television industry in Connecticut.

WWE, like every other public company has a duty to its shareholders to take advantage of approved tax credits, just like other movie and television producers based in CT such as GSN/MTV and GENIEC.

The tax credits that have been properly taken by WWE have helped the company add approximately 60 employees, returning WWE to workforce levels existing prior to the workforce reduction in January 2009.

WWE pays out \$66 million in annual salaries for employees based in Connecticut.

In 2011, WWE plans to add additional investment for a WWE online network, which when up and running is projected to add another 140 jobs in CT.

Millions of dollars are paid to the state of Connecticut in a variety of taxes by WWE, our employees (personal income tax, real estate taxes,

10 ways to

STAND UP FOR W

1. Forward "Stand Up for WWE" videos to your friends.
2. Upload video to your profile on YouTube and Facebook (please don't post a post).
3. Email your friends and family stating why you are a WWE fan.
4. Friend WWE on Facebook.
5. Make it to Stand Up for WWE at your Facebook status.
6. Write a letter to the editor of your newspaper.
7. Share your favorite WWE stories on Twitter and Facebook.
8. Read a story that is critical of WWE. Email it to me.
9. Create a Stand Up for WWE t-shirt for live events.
10. Check back regularly for updates.

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WWE: Inside WWE > Stand Up for W...

sales taxes, etc.) and the company also employs local vendors and service providers that also end up paying taxes to the state.

Accusation:

"...the company had, in fact, retained lobbyists to represent the company's interests regarding federal regulation of steroids, restrictions on adult-oriented programming and a host of other issues."

Daniels Allmar - *The Hartford Courant's Capitol Watch Blog* - Oct. 8, 2010

"...lobbyists helped McMahon 'duck taxes.'"

Matthew Kaufman - *The Hartford Courant* - Oct. 15, 2010

Truth:

WWE has never spent one penny lobbying anybody regarding the federal regulation of steroids. WWE did incur legal fees associated with responding to requests for information from Congressional committees on things relating politics and in connection with WWE's management appearing before Congressional subcommittee hearings.

Since WWE's inception in 1988, WWE has spent a nominal amount of money on government relations for an entertainment company of WWE's size.

According to Open Secrets.org, the television, movie and music industry has spent

\$755,089,734.00 on lobbying since 1998. WWE's total spend amounts to less than three-tenths of one percent of that amount during its entire 28 years in existence.

The overwhelming majority of the company's government relations expenditures focused on the company's *Amateur Athletic Union* (AAU) and *Armed Services* involvement with the company. WWE pays gross admissions taxes on ticket sales similar to concerts or other live entertainment events in states that WWE is not regulated.

Accusation:

"... the fact that the merchandise sold by the WWE is manufactured in China."

Ted Mann - *The New London Day* - Oct. 5, 2010

Truth:

WWE's master toy licensee is Mattel, who manufactures all of WWE's toys.

Approximately 90 to 95 percent of all toys purchased in the U.S. are manufactured abroad.

WWE does not manufacture any merchandise. Its licensing partners do.

WWE is a global entertainment company with business partners who are both US and international based. These partners have employees all over the world.

Contrary to the assertion that our licensing program shifts jobs overseas, in reality, it creates jobs here in Connecticut for employees involved in product licensing, design approval, royalty accounting and the like.

Accusation:

"...the company...has been criticized for violent and sexually suggestive programming."

Peter Wallsten - *The Wall Street Journal* - July 2, 2010

Truth:

All of WWE's programming has been TV-PG since June 2008.

wwe.com/.../settingtherecordstraight

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WWE: Inside WWE > Stand Up for W...

Friday Night SmackDown, which made its network debut in 1999 has always been rated TV-PG. 87 percent of WWE fans say WWE content is appropriate for families. Of the 14 million weekly viewers in the United States that watch WWE programming, 80 million are women.

Accusations:

"Putting profits before people."

Richard Blumenthal Ads - 2010

Truth:

World Wrestling Entertainment first opened its office in 1983 with 13 employees. Today it employs approximately 800 people and pays out \$60 million in salaries for those based in Connecticut alone. WWE provides a comprehensive benefits package to all full-time employees including medical, dental, vision, 401(k) and employee stock purchase plans. 110 employees have been with WWE for more than 10 years. WWE has 140 Superstars and it has currently under contract as independent contractors. The average active roster WWE Talent earns more than \$650,000 annually, with WWE covering 100 percent of all costs associated with any in-ring related injuries and rehabilitation.

In 2011, WWE plans to hire between 100-140 employees in anticipation of the launch of the WWE cable network.

WWE has a longstanding commitment to give back to communities through literacy programs, support of charities and their families, and a long-term relationship with the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Accusations:

"...the same Democratic Party has as Richard, other business journalists, particularly claiming performance as independent contractors while not receive health benefits from WWE"

- Ed Stannard - New Haven Register - Sept. 5, 2010

Truth:

WWE covers 100 percent of all costs associated with any in-ring related injuries and rehabilitation. The Talent Wellness Program, fully funded by WWE, calls for regular cardiovascular testing and monitoring, ImPACT™ testing for brain function, annual physicals, medical referrals and blood screening of WWE Talent, as well as substance abuse and random drug testing.

WWE offers current and former talent and may have substance abuse problems complete drug rehabilitation at no cost to them. WWE is the only entertainment company that provides this type of assistance and ongoing support to its former performers.

WWE invests nearly \$3.5 million annually in the talents' health and wellness programs.

Accusations:

"The company also has been accused of looking the other way as wrestlers, feeling pressured to maintain the pumped-up bodies showcased in the W.W.E., turned to steroids."

- Ray Hernandez & Joshua Blustein - The New York Times - July 15, 2010

Truth:

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WWE Inside WWE > Stand Up for W...

WWE's Talent Wellness Policy strictly prohibits the use of steroids, the abuse of prescription medications, performance enhancing drugs and the use, possession and/or distribution of illegal drugs.

WWE's entire substance abuse and drug testing policies independently administered by third party leading medical experts.

The Talent Wellness Program is designed to result in all WWE Talent being tested at a minimum four times a year, but may result in more frequent testing due to the random selection process.

Accusation:

"Lack of athletic-board scrutiny also ensured that the WWE's wrestlers would not be subject to drug tests."
- Andy Barr - Politico - Aug. 10, 2010

Truth:

WWE is still regulated in 21 states and the District of Columbia, where rules and regulations can differ. The company's Talent Wellness Program is far stricter than any medical or drug testing required by the states.

Much like Ringling Brothers Circus and Harlem Globetrotters, WWE is sheer entertainment and therefore should not be under the purview of the antiquated rules and regulations of State Athletic Commissions.

WWE pays gross admissions taxes on ticket sales similar to concerts or other live entertainment events in states that we are not regulated.

Accusation:

"The allegations against WWE seem to be criminal in nature...because allegations about independent contractors are investigated by the Department of Labor and the Department of Revenue Services..."
Richard Blumenthal - Oct. 4, 2010

Truth:

WWE has always complied with the law, and consistently follows its internal policies and procedures to comply with ever-changing employee laws.

For the entirety of WWE's existence, WWE talent have been classified as independent contractors and not employees.

There is not now, nor has there ever been, any criminal investigation into WWE's treatment of its Superstars as independent contractors.

WWE's treatment and reporting of its talent as independent contractors has never been challenged or questioned by any federal or state regulatory body during the entirety of WWE's existence.

Up until this election, WWE has not been investigated in the past for independent contractor classification.

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Exhibit H
Make-A-Wish Ad Script

**Video: WWE Supports the Make-a-Wish Foundation
(32 seconds)**

TRANSCRIPT

Announcer: For over 25 years, World Wrestling Entertainment has proudly supported the Make-a-Wish Foundation, helping to grant wishes to children with life threatening illnesses.

David Williams (President & CEO of Make-a-Wish): WWE grants more wishes for kids than any other professional sports organization.

Unidentified child: I was crying a little bit, really. I was so excited.

Unidentified woman: It was amazing to meet him. And it was very awesome and I just want to thank Make-a-Wish.

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Exhibit I
Wrestlemania Reading Challenge
Ad Script

**Video: Wrestle Mania Reading Challenge
(32 seconds)**

TRANSCRIPT

Rey Mysterio: The purpose of the Wrestle Mania reading challenge is to motivate the youth

Marie Anne Hodel (Librarian): World Wrestling Entertainment really has helped put the library on the map. I've noticed a lot more kids coming in, especially the teenagers, which is a hard demographic for us to reach.

Announcer: WWE has inspired over a quarter of a million students to broaden their horizons through reading.

Marie Anne Hodel (Librarian): I think it's a perfect marriage. WWE – they promote and give back to the communities. As the director of the library, I am all for it.

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Exhibit J
WWE Divas Ad Script

Video: WWE Divas
(32 seconds)

TRANSCRIPT

"Layla": I am happy to be a WWE Diva.

"Bella Twins": Our job is to pretty much make people smile and they do the same thing back to us. Can you beat that?

"Alicia Fox": I feel as though I'm really starting to develop a good foundation to be a role model.

"Eve": I have the opportunity of showing young girls that being strong, independent, intelligent, and healthy can really take you anywhere you want to go in life.

"Layla": It has also given me a lot of courage to speak up and say: this is me. This is who I am.

"Michelle McCool": This for me is a dream. I'm in heaven.

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Exhibit K

**“Vince McMahon Addresses the
WWE Universe” web video script**

Video: Vince McMahon addresses the WWE Universe
(1 minute and 23 seconds)

TRANSCRIPT

McMahon: The United State Senatorial campaign in Connecticut involving my wife, former WWE CEO Linda McMahon, and Attorney General Richard Blumenthal has quite frankly put the spotlight on WWE. And it has resulted in some negative and inaccurate attacks on our company. So, we're reaching out directly to you -- the WWE universe, our fans -- to provide the real facts about WWE. And we ask you to join us in responding to these malicious attacks against the company and you, our viewers. We've initiated a new campaign called Stand Up for WWE.

We'll be posting videos regularly on WWE.com to set the record straight. And we ask you to utilize YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, as well as WWE.com to correct biased and inaccurate media reports. We encourage you to sign on to WWE's Facebook page and upload your videos, your pictures, and your stories on YouTube voicing your support for WWE.

Let's show the world the power of World Wrestling Entertainment. Let's stand up for WWE.
Thank you.

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Exhibit L

**“Celebrities Discuss Experiencing the
Power of WWE” web video script**

Video: Celebrities Discuss Experiencing the Power of WWE
(1 minute and 49 seconds)

TRANSCRIPT

Dennis Miller: I think the WWE is populist entertainment at its best.

Ryan Phillippe: The fact that it has sustained as long as it has, and to maintain its popularity, is remarkable. There's nothing else really that you could compare it to.

Florence Henderson: You know what impressed me was the size of the organization. And how nice everybody is.

Bob Barker: I have never been with any company – movie, television – any company, where there were so many people, and they are so nice.

Jeremy Piven: After doing this, I'm so insanely impressed. Because everyone is wildly professional.

Jon Lovitz: It's probably the most professionally run show I've ever done – ever. Period.

Cedric the Entertainer: For everybody to be so cordial, and professional, and down to earth, it was a good environment to be a part of. So, it was top notch for me definitely.

Jewel: Being able to come and be a part of the WWE family was a lot of fun. Because it really is like a family.

Johnny Knoxville: It's such a family atmosphere you got here too. It's, uh, yeah. It's pretty great.

Dennis Miller: I don't like it when things like this are denigrated. This is fun. And I'm telling you there's a right of passage here. You can see it between these fathers and sons out in the crowd. I dig that whole feeling.

Maria Menounos: It was the most thrilling experience of my life. I'm going to cry now.

Exhibit M

**Transcript of Vince McMahon Speech
at Fan Appreciation Day, Oct. 30, 2010**

Video: Vince McMahon Delivers a Special Message at "Fan Appreciation Day"
(2 minutes and 9 seconds)

TRANSCRIPT

McMahon: Well, some people may think I am out here to talk about politics today – nothing could be further from the truth. Although I do encourage you to vote this Tuesday, and while you're voting, feel free to wear a WWE t-shirt.

PAUSE

No, I came out here to simply say thank you. That's what this day is all about. It's about fan appreciation. No one appreciates their fans more than World Wrestling Entertainment. Although no doubt, we the WW universe – we've been subject to ridicule by elitists. On occasion we've been subject to out-and-out lies by some politicians. We've been subject to distortion and equivocation by some members of the media. Nonetheless, fourteen million of us watch WWE on television each and every week here in the United States.

PAUSE

McMahon: Which means you stand up for what you want to watch on television. It means you stand up for what you think is appropriate for your family to watch. It means you stand up for what you enjoy. It means you stand up for WWE. So with that in mind – stand up! Come on. Stand up! Stand up for fan appreciation day! Stand up!

END

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Exhibit N

Video CD