

February 24, 2009

To: Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee

From: Denise Gladue, 14 year table games dealer at Foxwoods

Re: PB 5608 AAC The Issuance of Liquor Permits to Casinos that Permit Smoking in the Casino

Good afternoon. My name is Denise Gladue and I have worked at Foxwoods for 14 years as an assistant floor supervisor.

As with my colleagues I am here to tell you that Proposed Bill 5608 does not go far enough and I urge you also to adopt the language put forward by the Attorney General.

Something that I often get asked about is the "non-smoking" areas at the casino. People want to know what our problem is since the casinos already have "non-smoking" areas.

What people don't understand is that the "non-smoking" areas directly border smoking areas. We have blowers but they do nothing except blow around the smoky air. Smoke knows no boundaries so having "non-smoking" areas amidst smoking areas is inadequate at best and a farce at most.

I spent a lot of time in this building last year urging you all to ban smoking at the casinos so that I can feel safe when I go to work. This committee did the right thing and voted to end smoking in casinos. We all thank you for that.

However, I have only one question to ask you. In 2003, this legislature passed a comprehensive smoke free air law protecting almost every employee in the state. If a full ban on smoking was good in 2003, why is a full ban for me and my thousands of other casino workers in this state not possible in 2009.

Thank you.