



ROBERT MADORE
DIRECTOR
REGION 9A UAW
960 TURNPIKE STREET, SUITE 2D
CANTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02021-2824
PHONE: (781) 821-3037
FAX: (781) 821-3039
PRINTED IN U.S.A.

INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA-UAW

© RON GETTELFINGER, President



ELIZABETH BUNN, Secretary-Treasurer

February 27, 2009

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

From: Robert Madore, Director Region 9A UAW

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

Good afternoon Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Bob Madore and I am the Director of UAW Region 9A which represents more than 50,000 members in New England, New York Metropolitan Area and Puerto Rico. In Connecticut, the UAW represents over 2500 dealers at Foxwoods currently in contract negotiations with the Mashantucket Tribe under tribal law.

I want to acknowledge the good intentions behind proposed bill 5608 and thank members of the Southeastern delegation for raising it in an effort to address the impact of second hand smoke on casino workers.

That said, proposed bill 5608 will not, as written, protect casino workers from the dangers of second hand smoke. What proposed bill 5608 does is codify a non-binding letter of agreement between the Governor and the Mohegan Sun Tribe. The letter of agreement outlines the Mohegan Sun proposal to address second hand smoke through ventilation, signs, employee accommodations, 20% non-smoking gaming and no smoking in non-gaming areas.

The sad fact is the Rell/Mohegan agreement and this bill, if enacted, actually make things worse for gaming workers at Foxwoods and Mohegan. These workers are captives of second-hand smoke which you've already heard witnesses testify is sickening and killing them. By eliminating smoking in non-gaming areas, and in 20% of the gaming areas, the bill concentrates smoke and smokers from the non-gaming areas into the smoking areas where dealers are forced to work. This is an even more dangerous situation than they currently suffer.

That is why the UAW has joined with the Attorney General, members of the MATCH coalition and other community and labor allies to urge you to strengthen this bill with the substitute language proposed by the Attorney General.

We believe this language offers an appropriate compromise that is fiscally responsible and politically feasible. By phasing in the ban over three (3) years we have addressed and tried to minimize any potential revenue impact and we have added language that allows both Tribes to enact their own tribal laws to ban smoking rather than be subject to Connecticut law should they so choose.

These casinos are the largest employers in the state. The UAW is sensitive to the issues of sovereignty and tribal law – as you know since we are now bargaining under tribal law with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. Therefore, we do not care how a smoking ban at the casinos is achieved, but we do care and will not stop caring about when it is achieved. This legislature chose not to act last year in part because both casinos suggested they would solve the problem by agreement. Instead, workers have continued to sicken and Foxwoods has done nothing while Mohegan has done worse than nothing. Only a strong, unambiguous action of the General Assembly will give the Tribes the choice of enacting the legislation on their own or having the ban imposed on them by state law.

opeiu494