



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
HB 5784 AAC GRANTS IN LIEU OF TAXES ON LAND TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR THE
MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT TRIBAL NATION AND THE MOHEGAN TRIBE
March 2, 2011

Good morning Senator Cassano, Representative Gentile, and the members of the Committee on Planning and Development. My name is Elizabeth Ritter and I represent the 38th House District which includes the Towns of Montville and Waterford. I am testifying in support of HB 5784 AAC GRANTS IN LIEU OF TAXES ON LAND TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR THE MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT TRIBAL NATION AND THE MOHEGAN TRIBE.

Thank you once again for taking up this bill. The bill provides for fair and consistent compensation to towns for lands taken into trust for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and the Mohegan Tribe. It does this by clearly setting the eligibility dates for a state grant in lieu of taxes for tribal lands taken into trust to include all the lands so taken. It further states that these lands be valued annually for grant purposes.

There is little question that the affected towns – Montville, Ledyard and Preston – bear burdens from the removal of these lands from their tax roles. The success of the two tribes with their commercial efforts has been dramatic and is a critical component of the local economy. Relations between the tribes and the municipalities are positive and strong. But these towns have had to operate with a significant loss of tax revenue; and, given the benefits that come directly to the state from the tribes, it is only reasonable to expect a fair opportunity for the towns to fairly benefit from PILOT.

Thank you for your consideration and understanding. I am always available for your questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Ritter".

Representative Betsy Ritter
38th District