



Michael J. Crowley
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TOWN OF GROTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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February 21, 2013

My name is Michael Crowley and I am here to testify in support of BILL 6373 regarding the Policing of Indian Tribal Land.

As the Chief of Police in Groton, I am here to talk about public safety and emergency response programs in southeastern Connecticut.

We have had a strong and cooperative relationship with the Mohegan Public Safety department since Mohegan Sun opened its doors in 1997 and have known some of their officials since long before.

Like all municipal public safety officials, I am accustomed to working with state officials, and with surrounding towns and cities on a wide range of issues, including emergency planning and mutual aid response. In southeastern Connecticut, that community also includes the sovereign Mohegan Tribal Nation.

In my dealings with the Tribe's public safety and emergency response services, I have observed them to be very professional and organized.

All of the Mohegan Tribal Police Department officers have worked in municipal police departments or the Connecticut State Police. Like the officers in my department, they are Connecticut-POST certified and bring countless years of training and experience to their department.

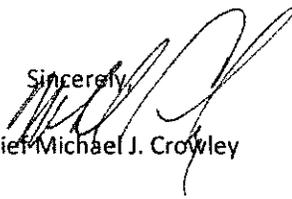
The Mohegan police officers are our colleagues and our peers, and we work in cooperation with full confidence and mutual respect.

It is also important to know that most of our municipal public safety departments participate in the region's mutual aid services and if given the opportunity, I believe that the Mohegan Tribal Police Department would be an asset to the Law Enforcement community in the Eastern region of the state. I would not hesitate to call the Mohegan Tribal police for support of an emergency in my community.

On behalf of public safety officials of southeastern Connecticut, I support this legislation because it makes economic sense for the Tribe and the State of Connecticut, and it will have a positive impact on the superior public safety services in the region.

I have full confidence in our municipal departments, and in the Mohegan Tribe's public safety departments to continue to provide all of the police, fire and EMS that the residents of our region need.

Sincerely,


Chief Michael J. Crowley

"In Partnership With the Community"