



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

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GARY CASTEEL, Secretary-Treasurer

**Public Hearing
Public Safety Committee
Testimony Presented by Andrea Goodrich
Support SB 1090 AAC Gaming**

Senator Larson, Representative Dargan and Members of the Public Safety Committee, my name is Andrea Goodrich. I have been a table games dealer at Foxwoods Resort Casino for 11 years and am the President of UAW Local 2121 – the union for casino dealers at Foxwoods. We currently have 1,480 dealers and assistant floor supervisors.

I am here to thank you for raising SB 1090 An Act Concerning Gaming and I am urging committee members to vote yes on this important proposal.

Many of my co-workers have been at Foxwoods since it opened in 1992. In 2010, when we became members of UAW, our jobs got better. We were able to improve our healthcare, wages, and working conditions and have an avenue for ongoing communication with our employer about issues that arise on the job. We are here today in support of this proposal because if passed, we know the jobs to build the casinos and the jobs to operate the casino will be union jobs and this is incredibly important to us.

We also want to support the substitute language that has been presented to the committee to ban smoking in the three new casinos. Our members understand all too well the dangers of working every day exposed to second hand smoke and we have come before you with our concerns in the past. We feel very strongly that these new casinos must be smoke free and urge you to ensure the health and safety of workers in any new casinos built in Connecticut.

Due to increased competition from other states, we believe Connecticut must act quickly to build new casinos to retain business, keep Connecticut's loyal casino patrons here in our state, and protect state revenue.

Thank you for your consideration and support of SB 1090.