

Statement Opposing Senate Bill 1090—Expanding Casinos in Connecticut

Michael Dowling

Fairfield, CT

I oppose expanding casinos in Connecticut. Instead I suggest the Legislature and Governor invest its efforts and our tax dollars improving business climate to attract new and support existing businesses.

I was born in 1953 in Norwalk, raised in Ridgefield, and have lived in Fairfield since 1983. I have worked as an attorney in private practice in downtown Bridgeport from 1980 to 1994. In 1994 my law firm moved to Fairfield when the State and City of Bridgeport renovated the downtown Mall that is now occupied by Housatonic Community College. I have been to the casinos in Eastern Connecticut for conferences. I am against expanding casinos. I believe they lure those least able to gamble to gamble when the odds always favor the house. The benefits promised fall short of projections. The casinos and other gambling activity, such as dog tracks (Bridgeport), Jai Lai/"Hi-Li" (Milford), or Off-Track-Betting parlors eventually fail here, and wind up wasting millions spent by the State. Currently the high-touted casinos Atlantic City are bankrupt. I am against spending my tax dollars on purported "fast-buck" schemes including casinos. I request that you vote down Bill 1090, and instead support legitimate businesses that develop products and services.

Thank you.

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