



FOUNDATION FOR FAIR CONTRACTING
OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

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TESTIMONY of
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SB 1090: AN ACT CONCERNING GAMBLING

March 17, 2015

Honorable Senator Larson, Honorable Representative Dargan, and esteemed members of the Public Safety Committee:

The Foundation for Fair Contracting of Connecticut ("FFC") submits this letter in support of SB 1090 AN ACT CONCERNING GAMBLING. The FFC is an industry-sponsored organization. Our mission is to promote compliance with laws and regulations relating to public works construction. Specifically, we focus on issues concerning wages, classification of workers and apprenticeship standards.

The building of new casinos in the state of Connecticut will provide a number of benefits to the state including increased revenue, jobs and tourism. This is evidenced by the previous job creation and revenue brought into the state with Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods, which, together, created more than 32,000 jobs through the construction processes of casinos and within casinos operations (UMASS, 2011, p. 5). In fact, according to the UMASS Boston College of Management Report (2011), "over the years, the two casinos contributed \$416.7 million in revenue to the state and \$139.8 million to the local government, and created an estimated total of \$340 million payroll for their employees" (p. 7). Furthermore, for every dollar spent on construction, \$1.57 is reinvested in the economy (Zandi, 2010).

Massachusetts recognized the potential for gambling revenue and subsequently decided to build a casino in Springfield, MA as a means of attracting tourism from neighboring states, including Connecticut. This means a reduction of monies being invested in our state and more dollars traveling out of state. The building of these casinos enables CT to compete with the new MGM casino just over the border while keeping monies in CT and bringing in more tourism into other areas of the state.

In addition to supporting the construction industry and creating construction jobs, this endeavor will create more hospitality and tourism sector employment. This ultimately creates more payroll and tax revenue for the state. These jobs are good paying jobs and as noted by MASS Boston, "casino workers in Massachusetts could be expected to earn an average of \$36,000 to \$44,000 per year" (p. 9) and should be expected in Connecticut as well. These are not low paying jobs, these are good middleclass jobs. Please support 1090 AN ACT CONCERNING GAMBLING and the growth of Connecticut's economy.

Cindy Dubuque, MSW
Executive Director