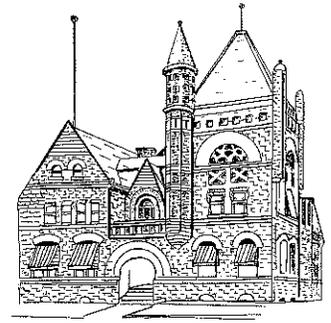




Edward M. O'Brien
Mayor

Office of the Mayor

City of West Haven
355 Main Street
West Haven, Connecticut 06516



City Hall
1896-1968

March 16, 2015

State Representative Stephen Dargan
Legislative Office Building, Room 3603
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear State Representative Dargan:

Thank you for this opportunity to be heard on this proposed expansion of the number of casinos in Connecticut.

As Mayor of West Haven, I am in favor of this plan strictly from an economic and job creating perspective. It is no secret that cities and towns across Connecticut are in need of new revenues and it is also no secret that the monies that were supposed to flow from our two casinos to the municipalities have shrunk dramatically from what they were projected to be.

In my city of West Haven, like many other towns and cities in Connecticut, we are facing tough economic times due to years of growth in our expenses and virtually no growth in our revenues, and in many cases, declining revenues. Many of our residents are in need of employment or in need of part-time employment just to make ends meet.

It is true that there is a push for increased gaming in states that border Connecticut. Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New York are enjoying revenues and jobs as a direct result of this industry and we, as a state, are missing out on these dollars.

I understand the fact that there is much more than just dollars and jobs that must be plugged into the equation of expanding gaming in Connecticut, such as public safety and health and I know that you and your committee will weigh all aspects of this expansion. I would urge you to please keep in mind the needed revenues that would flow into the local municipalities and the employment that would be provided to our residents.

I would again like to thank you for this opportunity to be heard on this issue.

Sincerely,

Ed O'Brien
Mayor