

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, Connecticut 06360
(860) 889-2324/Fax: (860) 889-1222/Email: office@seccog.org

18 March 2015

Senator Timothy Larson, Co-Chair
Representative Stephen Dargan, Co-Chair
Public Safety and Security Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 3600
Hartford, CT 06106

SUBJECT: Raised Bill No. 1090, An Act Concerning Gaming

Dear Senator Larson and Representative Dargan:

At their meeting this morning, the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG), which is comprised of the chief elected officials of the 21 municipalities in southeastern Connecticut, voted unanimously to recommend the adoption of Raised Bill No. 1090, An Act Concerning Gaming. The SCCOG wishes to go on record in supporting the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and Mohegan Tribe in their efforts to stem the loss of jobs due to the future location of gaming casinos in neighboring states.

The SCCOG has a long history of working with representatives of these two federally recognized tribes on matters concerning the region's economic development. The casinos the two tribes own and operate within our region are major players in both southeastern Connecticut's and the state's economies. Should Raised Bill No. 1090 not be adopted, Connecticut will surely be negatively impacted by the development of new casinos in Massachusetts and New York, without allowing the two existing casino owners to compete for the business that these new developments will attract. It is anticipated that the new resort casinos in neighboring states will result in a significant loss of direct and indirect jobs that will be devastating to our region if the State does not allow the two tribes to jointly develop new satellite gaming facilities.

Thank you for considering our input on this matter critical to the towns and cities in southeastern Connecticut.

Sincerely,



William Ballinger
SCCOG Chairman
First Selectman, Bozrah

Cc: Chairman Rodney Butler, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation
Chairman Kevin Brown, Mohegan Tribe
Southeastern Connecticut Legislative Delegation

Member Municipalities: Bozrah * Colchester * East Lyme * Franklin * Griswold * City of Groton * Town of Groton * Lebanon * Ledyard * Lisbon * Montville * New London * North Stonington * Norwich * Preston * Salem * Sprague * Stonington * Stonington Borough * Waterford * Windham