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Commerce Committee Public Hearing

HB 5577 An Act Requiring The Evaluation Of The Costs and Benefits Of Establishing
Certain Commercial Gaming Within The State of Connecticut

March 10, 2016

Good afternoon.

My name is Dave Roche and I am the President of the Connecticut Building Trades and Construction Council and Business Manager for the Sheet Metal Workers International Association in Connecticut. I am here today to oppose HB 5577 An Act Requiring The Evaluation Of The Costs and Benefits Of Establishing Certain Commercial Gaming Within The State of Connecticut.

Over the years the Trades and the Tribes have had a strong relationship, and together we have built many things. Most recently we built the recently opened \$120 million Tanger Outlet Mall at Foxwoods and the \$120 million Earth Tower Hotel at Mohegan Sun, completion date fall 2016. We are excited about the opportunity to continue that relationship and build the new MMCT Venture LLC facility.

As you have heard today, there has already been exhaustive studies on this matter and one thing is clear, delaying action in Connecticut only benefits out of state competition. The Tribes' joint project has one clear goal in mind: protecting Connecticut's labor force from out-of-state competitors that threaten to cripple our economy.

You have heard from some of the thousands of workers across Connecticut have compelling stories about the impact the casinos have had on their lives and livelihood. Our state stands to lose over 9,300 jobs if MMCT Venture is unable to engage in healthy competition with the new Springfield facility.

MMCT Venture is moving forward towards the realization of this goal. If allowed to proceed unencumbered and undelayed, the new Hartford casino will save create thousands of jobs. The new facility will create over two thousand construction jobs with over \$122 million in payroll for workers.

The Mashantucket Pequots and Mohegans are working to ensure that Connecticut maintains a robust economy and a diverse profile of job offerings for



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decades to come. As a leader in the Construction Trades and the Labor Movement, speaking on behalf of thousands of workers in Connecticut, I strongly urge you to help, not hinder our good friends and partners as they make this vision a reality.

Thank you
David Roche

President Connecticut State Building and Construction Trades Council



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