

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 members of the Commerce Committee. My name is Roberta James-Brown and I live in Norwich, Connecticut. I am here to oppose HB 5577 An Act Requiring The Evaluation Of The Costs and Benefits Of Establishing Certain Commercial Gaming Within The State of Connecticut. I hope the State of Connecticut will do everything possible to allow the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribes the ability to response to new competition without further delay.

I'm proud of what I have been able to accomplish as an employee at Foxwoods. Having worked there since 1998, I started on the front line and worked my way up to where I assist employees and serve as an advocate for team members.

I find negative comments about "casino jobs" rude and insulting. With the decline in the defense industry, I don't know what Southeastern Connecticut would have done without the thousands of Casino jobs. A blow to this industry from MGM Springfield would have a devastating effect on many employees and their families.

So, when you talk about "Casino Jobs" you have to think about the husband-wife teams who work at both facilities, or the single moms who are the only sources of income or people like me who have created a successful career. My husband and I have purchased a home, raised a family and are putting our daughter through college.

Our jobs are real; they matter and must be protected by our legislators. Otherwise, there will be a terrible domino effect that would negatively impact the economy of both small and large communities where these gainfully employed "Casino workers" live, work, shop and play. Please

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