



Mashantucket Pequot
Tribal Nation

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Tribal Council

Commerce Committee Public Hearing

Testimony of Rodney Butler, Chairman Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

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.

Chairman Brown and I are here today because we're trying to save Connecticut jobs.

As you know, construction is currently underway on a billion dollar casino just across the state border in Springfield. We have already conducted a study on exactly what this out-of-state competitor would mean for Connecticut's economy.

The results of this study have confirmed our fears: the Massachusetts casino, when it opens its doors, will strike a devastating blow to our state. And if we don't take action, Connecticut will lose 9,300 jobs.

These jobs aren't just in the gaming industry. Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods support all kinds of jobs, from the vendors who supply our casinos to the business owners in our host communities whose livelihood depends on a steady flow of visitors to our flagship locations.

Take Gary Paul, who told his story in our most recent ad. If you haven't seen it yet, I urge you to check it out at www.ctjobsmatter.com.

Gary is the owner of Paul's TV in Groton, and he supplies televisions to both Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods. For Gary and his employees, Connecticut's casinos are a major client and a major source of income. The first year that the Springfield casino opens for business, not only will it have a devastating impact on Connecticut's casino employees, but the 1700 local companies that Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods do business with will also suffer.

In addition to thousands of diverse Connecticut jobs, the Massachusetts casino will likely draw \$702 million in revenue away from our state. Right now, 25% of the slot revenue from Mohegan



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Sun and Foxwoods goes into Connecticut's General Fund, which pays for critical state programs and infrastructure improvements.

Consequently, the loss of revenue to an out-of-state competitor won't just hurt our casino employees and the people we do business with -- it will hamper the state's ability to fund programs that help every Connecticut resident.

The Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot tribes want to make sure that this doesn't happen. Our joint venture, if allowed to proceed, can and will staunch the flow of jobs and revenue from our casinos to a Massachusetts competitor.

If MMCT Venture is able to open a new satellite casino, we can recapture over 46% of the Connecticut jobs and 80% of the gaming and non-gaming revenue that would otherwise be lost. Our new casino would also create over 6,500 jobs, generate over \$330 million in gaming and non-gaming revenue, and generate over \$77 million in taxes for Connecticut.

What I want to emphasize to you is this -- MMCT Venture will pay for this new casino ourselves, at absolutely no cost to the state. We are prepared to invest up to \$300 million to save Connecticut jobs and revenue. Supporting our project has no drawbacks for the state, but hindering it will have massive consequences.

We don't need a new study to prove this, because we've already conducted one. We are not asking for any favors or handouts -- all we want is your support. Please give us the ability to compete -- the stakes are too high for us to sit idly by as a Massachusetts casino leeches Connecticut jobs and revenue.

Thank you.

Rodney Butler
Chairman
Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation