



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Testimony of State Representative Emmett D. Riley
To the Committee on Commerce In Support of HB 5577, An Act Requiring the
Evaluation of the Costs and Benefits of Establishing Certain Commercial Gaming
within the State Connecticut.

March 10, 2016

Good Afternoon Representative Perone and Senator Hartley and members of the Commerce Committee.

My name is Emmett D. Riley, State Representative from the 46th District, Norwich and I am submitting testimony in support of HB 5577, An Act Requiring the Evaluation of the Costs and benefits of establishing certain commercial gaming within the state of Connecticut. I would publically like to thank the committee for raising this important piece of legislation.

Though research concerning the potential effects of new casinos opening within our state borders and in New York and Massachusetts has been completed, the reports were conducted by biased sources. These reports were commissioned by The Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority & Mashantucket Pequot Gaming Enterprise.

An effective analysis of these casinos' impacts on revenue, jobs, and overall competition cannot be completed when special interests and bottom lines are at stake. To truly come to an understanding of the best possible course of action, unbiased, value-free research must be done. It is unethical to allow tainted findings disguised as sound research to influence our decisions on this issue.

I ask that you join me in demanding findings that will give the legislature a fuller and more impartial picture of these new casinos and their estimated consequences. Please give this legislation your full support.