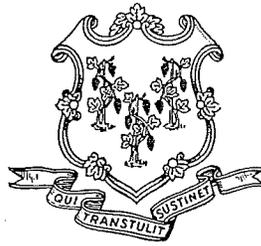


SENATOR TIM LARSON

Third District

Legislative Office Building
Room 3600
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Tel. 860-240-0511
Toll-free 1-800-842-1420
www.SenatorLarson.cga.ct.gov



State of Connecticut
SENATE

Chair
Public Safety & Security Committee
Vice Chair
Energy & Technology Committee
General Law Committee
Member
Commerce Committee

March 15, 2016

An Act Requiring the Evaluation of the Costs and Benefits of Establishing Certain Commercial Gaming within the State of Connecticut

Good afternoon. I am writing to express my staunch opposition to HB 5577, a bill that is delaying the MMCT Ventures time-sensitive mission to save Connecticut jobs and revenue.

Last year, the Public Safety Committee discussed the threat facing Connecticut's gaming industry ad nauseam and proposed a bill creating a clear process for the construction of a third casino in-state. MGM paid no regard to the bill at first and made no efforts to lobby against it, but now that it has passed they're doing everything they can to prevent Connecticut from sustaining our gaming industry and engaging in healthy economic competition.

Every time MMCT Ventures' casino projects delayed, the threat posed by MGM grows larger and more immediate. If we prevent the Mashantucket Pequot's and Mohegan's from taking necessary action, a billion-dollar corporate casino will drain Connecticut of over 9,000 jobs and over \$700 million in much-needed revenue. There is no time to waste here, and there's no need for another study. Any political fighting over this issue represents a major failure to support two of our oldest and most loyal partners, the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes.

MMCT Venture can and will save Connecticut's economy, and it's our duty to help them before it's too late.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Larson", written in a cursive style.

Sen. Larson