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**Testimony of State Representative Emmett D. Riley**  
**To the Committee on Commerce In Support of SB 398, An Act Concerning a**  
**Study of Certain Employment Transition In Eastern Connecticut.**  
**March 10, 2016**

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

My name is Emmett Riley, State Representative from the 46<sup>th</sup> District, Norwich and I am submitting testimony in **support of SB 398**, An Act Requiring A Study of Certain Employment Transition in Eastern Connecticut. I would publically like to thank the committee for raising this important piece of legislation.

The significance of the Commissioner of DECD researching, analyzing and developing a report relating to casino jobs losses is paramount. Eastern Connecticut, as you are well aware, is home to two of the largest gaming and entertainment facilities in the country and employs thousands of hard working Connecticut residents. Unfortunately, many of these individuals have lost or could lose their jobs and are or will be seeking other employment. Although the state has shown a marked improvement in job growth, unfortunately eastern Connecticut has not. The possibility of layoffs in the casino industry will only exacerbate the current challenging employment conditions in our region.

A report analyzing the transition of former casino employees will be helpful in assisting a dislocated worker shift to a new field of work. An integral component of such a study should include training and career coaching for the job seeker. As well, the examination of local industry needs whether manufacturing or healthcare is also essential.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on SB 5300 and I ask that you please give this legislation your full support.