



JULIE KUSHNER
DIRECTOR
REGION 9A UAW
111 SOUTH ROAD
FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06032-2560
PHONE: (860) 674-0143
FAX: (860) 674-1164
PRINTED IN U.S.A.

INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA-UAW

DENNIS WILLIAMS, President



GARY CASTEEL, Secretary-Treasurer

Public Hearing
Public Safety Committee

Testimony Presented by James Bourque, Trustee UAW Local 2121 Foxwoods

SB 957 AAC The Regulation of Gaming and the Authorization of a Casino Gaming Facility in the State – Support

Good afternoon Senator Larson, Senator Guglielmo, Representative Verrengia and members of the Public Safety Committee. My name is Jim Bourque and I am a 25-year employee of Foxwoods, a dual rate poker dealer and Trustee of UAW Local Union 2121.

I am here to thank you for raising SB957 which would allow the joint venture of Connecticut's two Tribes, Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribe, called MMCT Venture, LLC, to build a casino in East Windsor. On behalf of UAW Local 2121 Foxwoods, I am here to urge your support.

With increased competition from neighboring states, we believe it is imperative for Connecticut to act quickly to retain both direct and indirect casino business and jobs, give Connecticut's loyal casino patrons more options for gambling in their state, and protect state revenue.

Foxwoods dealers have been UAW members since January of 2010. Being a UAW member has allowed me and my colleagues to significantly improve our wages, benefits and working conditions.

I have been to several hearings and forums over the last months and years, on casino gaming expansion in Connecticut and have often heard people assail our jobs and our industry. I find this troubling and am here today to tell you that our jobs are good jobs.

We are paid well and we have good benefits that allow us to raise our families, participate in our communities and give back to them in ways that make Connecticut, and particularly Southeastern Connecticut, where most of our members live, a better place for everyone to live.

We are highly trained, proficient and skilled at our trade. We work hard every day to improve our work performance and our service to the public. Having a union contract has given us a process for voicing our opinions, concerns and feedback at work.

As you know, the UAW has an agreement with the two Tribes that the new venture, MMCT Venture, LLC, will allow all workers to form unions without interference or delay, will be smoke free, and will give current Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun employees and former employees who have lost their jobs because of work reductions preference in hiring at the new facility.

These are all very important to our members who have been hit by the downturn in the economy. To that end, there is no question in our mind, that without expansion in Connecticut the casino being built in Massachusetts will negatively impact casino jobs in our state.

We will be working in partnership with the two Tribes and other allies to help pass this legislation because we know that Connecticut Jobs Matter. Thank you for your consideration.