



**Testimony in Support of SB 957, AN ACT CONCERNING THE  
REGULATION OF GAMING AND THE AUTHORIZATION OF A  
CASINO GAMING FACILITY IN THE STATE.**

**Submitted by Det. Sgt. Matthew Carl, East Windsor Police Union,  
AFSCME Local 3583 - March 9, 2017**

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Chairman Guglielmo, Chairman Larson, Chairman Verrengia, and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee.

My name is Detective Sergeant Matthew Carl and I have proudly served the East Windsor Police Department for 20 years. I also serve as the Secretary of AFSCME Local 3583, which represents the 25 officers in our department.

I am here to today to voice our union's support for Proposed Senate Bill 957. As drafted, this bill would not only regulate the operation of a casino gaming facility in Connecticut, it would also authorize MMCT Venture to operate a casino gaming facility in Connecticut. MMCT Venture recently selected the Town of East Windsor to be the site of a possible casino gaming facility.

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, our union formally announced its support for the MMCT Venture proposal to build a gaming facility on the grounds of the Showcase Cinema. We polled our union members and they felt strongly that a casino will be positive for East Windsor. If this project moves forward, and gains the necessary approval, it will help the local economy by bringing good jobs to our community and generating revenues that will benefit our entire town and region.

I would also like to point out that AFSCME Council 4's Public Safety Committee, a coalition uniting approximately 2,300 unionized police officers in Connecticut, has endorsed the proposed casino for East Windsor.

Across Connecticut, declining revenues are taking a bite out of the economy and forcing deep cuts to vital services like law enforcement. It's rare to see a project that will reverse this negative scenario, but that's precisely what a casino would do. I would also like to point out that several unions, public and private, have come out in support of the project, and we all recognize short- and long-term benefits for our community.

It's understandable that some might question the impact a casino would have on crime and traffic. It's our position that MMCT Venture's proposal will turn an abandoned commercial zone into a vibrant and exciting area buzzing with activity. The people at MMCT Venture are committed to working with us to maintain and improve public safety in our town.

For these reasons and more, we urge your support of SB 957. Thank you very much. I'm happy to answer any questions.