

# TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR

## THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

March 7, 2017

Chairmen Larson, Guglielmo, Verrengia, Ranking Member Sredzinski, and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee.

The Town of East Windsor is very pleased to submit testimony in favor of Senate Bill 957, *An Act Concerning the Regulation of Gaming and the Authorization of a Casino Gaming Facility in the State*.

Last week, the Town of East Windsor became partners with MMCT Venture as the site of their satellite casino project. The Town worked closely with MMCT to craft a development agreement between our two entities that would truly work in best interests of the Town and of the joint venture. Both sides have done the necessary due diligence to be coming to this partnership with eyes wide open about the challenges and opportunities that a development like this present.

Our Town leadership has worked very closely with our police department, our school district and our social service partners to understand what services will be required for this project to happen. That due diligence has happened over a span of months, not days and not weeks. We know what we're signing up for.

As the Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot Tribes have been saying for quite some time, Connecticut Jobs Matter, and this is about protecting Connecticut jobs. As their research has shown, East Windsor is ideally suited to help achieve the goal of protecting the workforce in our state. The existing locations in southeastern Connecticut are sufficiently far away so that this new location won't have a detrimental effect on their existing operations, and it is conveniently located 15 miles north of Hartford and 13 miles south of Springfield.

For East Windsor, this is an opportunity. A development of this magnitude will grow our Grand List by more than twenty percent, providing economic development to a town that is prepared for and excited about the chance to attract new businesses. This growth will be key to ensuring that we can provide the services necessary to support a business of this size in our community.

It is not surprising to see MGM engaging so aggressively in our community and in the state legislature. They have demonstrated that they will do and say anything to stop or slow this project. If a casino is built in East Windsor it will generate an estimated \$337 million a year. MGM has, literally, hundreds of millions of reasons to spend and say whatever it takes to kill this project.

Over the weekend MGM sent glossy mailers to the residents of our town, spreading false claims and misinformation. In fact, on a per capita basis East Windsor is getting \$761.51 from the Tribes versus Springfield only getting \$162.65 per capita from MGM.

They are clearly uncomfortable with competition being so close to their new location, and their insistence that a location in southwestern Connecticut would better accomplish the goals of the state of preserving jobs and revenue is rooted in the fifty mile non-compete agreement that MGM has with Massachusetts, and with their concern that competition so close to their facility will be damaging to their revenue projections. They are clearly acting out of their own self-interest, and not out of their interest in Connecticut. If MMCT is successful, MGM loses. If MGM is successful in stopping this project from moving forward, Connecticut will be the biggest loser.

East Windsor views this project, and the legislation before you, as one that is comprised of risk and opportunity. For our community, we've done the necessary analyses to say the opportunity far outweighs the risk.

We thank you for your time, and we strongly urge your favorable consideration of SB 957.

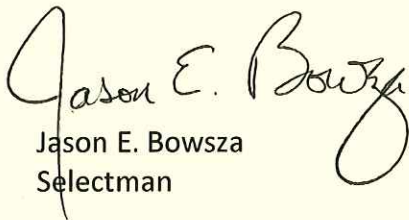
Sincerely,



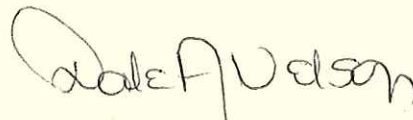
Robert Maynard  
First Selectman



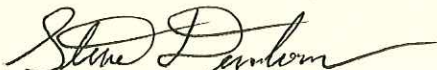
Richard P. Pippin, Jr.  
Deputy First Selectman



Jason E. Bowsza  
Selectman



Dale A. Nelson  
Selectman



Steve Dearborn  
Selectman