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**State of Connecticut**  
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MAJORITY LEADER**

**CO-CHAIR**  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Testimony  
Public Safety and Security Committee  
March 9, 2017  
S.B. 957

Good Afternoon Senator Larson, Representative Verrengia, Senator Guglielmo, Representative Sredzinski,

I am here to testify in favor of SB 957 An Act Concerning the regulation of gaming and the authorization of a casino gaming facility in the state.

I have had the privilege of living in southeastern Connecticut since 1980 to raise my family and start and grow my business which was established in 1983.

In the early 1990's Electric Boat came to our Chamber of Commerce and outlined concerns for their future operation as they were dangerously close to the 7000 person job level which was critical mass to justify continuing operations in Groton and nearby Quonset Point, Rhode Island. Afterward, the Mashantucket Pequot's opened Foxwoods Resort and Casino and was soon followed by the Mohegan Tribe opening the Mohegan Sun Resort and Casino. The business community, mostly from the tourism and hospitality sector, joined with the tribes and created Mystic Coast and Country as a marketing arm to highlight southeastern Connecticut and all that was here to offer.

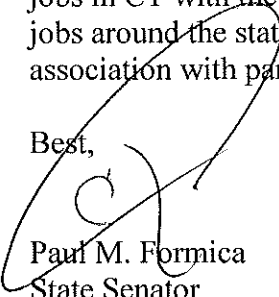
It wasn't long that 20,000 new jobs were created on the two casino resort properties offering needed economic diversity for our region. Many families, homes, and businesses survived the downturn as result of the spending power infused into the local economy.

Fast forward 20 years, Electric Boat had seen resurgence in contracts and forecasts up to 25,000-30,000 jobs in Groton and Rhode Island by 2030. While the competition in nearby states of New York and Rhode Island has settled the resort area jobs to approximately 12,000-14,000 still vibrant and importantly diverse for southeastern, CT.

With another border casino being constructed, the state has the potential to lose tens of millions of dollars annually in general fund support and thousands of jobs in eastern Connecticut and around the state as reductions in resort operations will follow and CT vendors, who rely on the support services these resorts require, will have to downsize.

The two tribes, long time good community and state support partners, proposed solution to keep jobs in CT with the establishment of a satellite operation off 91 in East Windsor. Stabilize CT jobs around the state, preserve state general fund dollars support and continue our long mutual association with partners we know and trust-makes sense in today's economy.

Best,



Paul M. Formica  
State Senator  
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