



To Whom It May Concern;

My name is Victoria Kania, I am the owner of Merlot on the Water in East Windsor, CT. I am writing today to express my highest support to the proposed casino by the Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot Tribes.

Let me start by saying, I have grown up and currently live in the area. My family and I are personally invested in the town of East Windsor owning various commercial and residential properties while running three separate businesses all within town lines. Growing up, I used to frequent the Showcase Cinemas, when it was running in all its glory. Since 2008, when Showcase wrapped its final film I have continually watched the vacant building diminish and become dilapidated.

With the MGM Casino opening on the horizon less than 20 miles away, it is vital that the town and state take all the impacts to our residents, business and real estate seriously. On a business level, we will see a sharp decline in the purchases at local restaurants and retail. Not only will this hurt on the small level of decreased revenues for individual businesses, but it will hurt on the state level as the 6.35% sales tax of each of the transactions will go away as well. But the impact doesn't stop there. We will see small and large business suffer and close, causing less employment opportunity, less local and state revenue and a decreased overall standard of living. Our residents will suffer from those impacts; it'll be seen in the parents that lost their job, the schools that lost their funding and the bills they can't pay because they don't have a job. Lastly, our real estate will take a hit. In the current day, we see private business, public business and individuals all leaving the state. Those that are here, we should be trying relentlessly to keep, not pushing them just 15 short miles to cross the border.

I want to finish by saying this, East Windsor as a town has decided this is what the town wants. The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously in favor of this project. More importantly, this is what THE STATE NEEDS.

We need the tax revenue, we need the jobs, and we need the chance to grow Connecticut back to being one of the wealthiest states in the country.

Thank you for your time,

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Victoria Kania
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