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Written submitted testimony of Thomas N. Kelly to the Public Safety and Security Committee, on Raised Bill No. 957.

Dear Tri-Chairs, Ranking Members and Members,

I have been following the slot gaming trends in Connecticut for over fourteen years. What was once the goose that laid the golden egg has become a poached egg? I was involved with bringing gaming guru Clyde Barrow to testify before the legislative task force that was empaneled in 2013-2014 for slot expansion in our pari-mutuel facilities. Dr. Barrow is the expert that the MMCT brought in for their gaming and employment projections in anticipation of off-Tribal Gaming. The peak of the slot gaming revenue to the State of Connecticut was 430 million dollars in 2007. Steadily, through a national fiscal meltdown in 2008-2009, coupled with increased market competition from surrounding states we have experienced a major shrinkage in our slot revenue. This leakage in revenue now equates to about 260 million dollars received in fiscal year 2015-2016.

Now, our state Tribal Partners have had an Epiphany to this market leakage and want to go off the reservation to open a convenience gaming facility in the northern I-91 corridor in Connecticut. The Tribes have openly admitted that they were caught flat-footed in this downturn. However, what they have not openly admitted is that while they were actively pursuing other gaming opportunities in Massachusetts, specifically Palmer, MA, Suffolk Downs in the greater Boston market and Fall River, MA. Connecticut was losing millions in revenue because of their slot monopoly. We should honor our state compact with our tribal partners in accordance of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act that granted as a right for them to operate on their designated Tribal Land. However, we should not be held hostage by this Compact.

The above referenced Bill is severely flawed.

This pending approval legislation has not been properly vetted and researched for the following reasons.

- **Arbitrary and Capricious: No open and transparent process leaving the State open to long drawn out legal challenges under the Equal Protection Clause.**
- **Too many unanswered questions on a Ruling, not an Opinion, from the BIA regarding risk of present Compact with the State of Connecticut.**
- **Haste Makes Waste!**
- **Measure Twice Cut Once!**
- **Go Back to the Drawing Board!**
- **Kill this Bill!**

Thank you for your time, consideration and service in this matter.

Respectfully,

Tom Kelly

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