
INTERNATIONAL UNION of OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL 30



Affiliated with the AFL-CIO

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Public Hearing

Public Safety Committee

Testimony by William Lynn, Business Manager, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 30

SB 957 AAC The Regulation of Gaming and the Authorization of a Casino Gaming Facility in the State Support

Good afternoon Senator Larson, Senator Guglielmo, Representative Verrengia and members of the Public Safety Committee. My name is William Lynn and I am the Business Manager of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 30. We represent over four thousand operating engineers throughout New York and Connecticut. Our members are the men and women that power and maintain public and private facilities here in Connecticut, including Foxwoods Casino where we have over two hundred members.

Our union supports the efforts of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and Mohegan Tribe, a joint venture known as the MMCT Venture LLC, to build a casino in East Windsor. Our union and others representing gaming workers in the State of Connecticut have reached an agreement with MMCT LLC that will allow the workers of this new casino to organize a union without employer interference. This means that workers in this new facility will have the opportunity to bargain for standard wages, benefits and working conditions that will not only benefit them, but their communities.

As you know, gaming competition from neighboring states represents a threat to Connecticut's workers at both Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun. Our members at Foxwoods have successfully negotiated contracts that have raised wages and improved benefits over the years. In order to continue to negotiate contracts that benefit workers and their communities, it is important that both Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun have the ability to develop this new site in East Windsor in an effort to compete with neighboring states. Not only will this new facility lead to good union jobs in East Windsor, but it will help protect workers at Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun.

We are committed to advocating and raising the working conditions of operating engineers in the state of Connecticut. For that reason we urge you and your colleagues to support MMCT's efforts to develop a new gaming facility in Connecticut. We are confident that our union and the others that have reached an agreement with MMCT will be able, through collective bargaining, to secure good jobs for Connecticut and help keep good jobs in the State.

Organizing - The Key to Our Union's Future

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