

March 8, 2017

Subject: Oppose S.B. 957: An Act Concerning the Regulation of Gaming and the Authorization of a Casino Gaming Facility in The State & Oppose H.B. 7239: an Act Providing for the Regulation of the Gaming to Protect Public Safety and Competitive Process to Issue a Gaming License.

Dear Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly,

My name is Lisa Madsen, I am a resident of the Broad Brook section of East Windsor and I am a new supporter of The Coalition against Casino Expansion in Connecticut. I am contacting you to oppose S.B. 957: An Act Concerning the Regulation of Gaming and the Authorization of a Casino Gaming Facility in The State & Oppose H.B. 7239: an Act Providing for the Regulation of the Gaming to Protect Public Safety and Competitive Process to Issue a Gaming License.

Based on the multi-college casino research paper Why Casinos Matter and former US Congressman Bob Steele's meeting on the Cost of a Casino, East Windsor and other surrounding Connecticut towns will experience many challenges as a result of a new casino. Those issues will include: problem gambling, destabilization of families, crime, weakening and cannibalization by the casino of local businesses, and declining property values. Additionally, the expected 10,000 casino patrons - that equal our town population everyday - will choke our Route 5 main roadway and connecting roads, degrade them, and due to the violent crime, increased drug addiction, and traffic - East Windsor will require significant increase for both police and emergency services that \$8M promised by the tribes might fall short. Over time, these issues will drain our small town and the social economic stability of the area. If and when the casino can't compete any longer like in New Jersey, what will East Windsor do with a shuttered casino?

The new East Windsor casino requires \$308 million per year. Bob Steele and the study both stated that the patrons won't be primarily tourists but rather locals from a 20 mile wide area and particularly the local problem gambler. They won't be attracting the high heeled roller. They will create local gamblers. High profile CT gambling addicts include: the Town of Winchester's CFO who stole over \$2 million from the town almost bankrupting it due to gambling addiction and Ledyard's tax collector that stole over \$300k from the town. We don't want this for our small town!

I humbly ask each of you to please review Bob Steele's Cost of a Casino video at <https://youtu.be/qf90A9YTO-Q> and an independent multi-college and bi-partisan research paper from the Institute of American Values "Why Casinos Matter - 31 Evidence based propositions from the Health & Social Sciences". <http://www.americanvalues.org/search/item.php?id=1981>.

My concern is the long term future of East Windsor and the north central communities with a saturation of casinos. We had no voice on whether a Springfield casino could be built since we are not Massachusetts residents - yet that casino will impact our roads and social services. Please consider all facts to ensure a lasting positive growth legacy to our region.

Thank you for considering my testimony!

Respectfully ~

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