

Testimony before the Connecticut Public Safety & Security Committee
March 9, 2017

Good morning Chairman Larson, Chairman Guglielmo, Chairman Verrengia
Ranking Member Srenzindki and Members of the Committee

My name is Bob Maynard. I am the First Selectman of the Town of East Windsor. I want to bring up some points regarding the proposed entertainment and gaming facility in East Windsor. First and most important, if the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribes build an entertainment and gaming facility in East Windsor, the State of Connecticut will regain tens of millions in tax revenue that would otherwise be lost. Second, and just as important, if the Tribal Nations build an entertainment and gaming facility in East Windsor, the State of Connecticut will save thousands of jobs. Building a casino in East Windsor is necessary to save the tax dollars and jobs that will be lost to MGM Resorts International Casino just over our border in Springfield Massachusetts. The tax revenue and jobs are real and their significance should not be lost in the noise surrounding your decision.

Another point I wish to raise is that the Development Agreement is a good deal for East Windsor. The Board of Selectmen and the Town departments have studied the impact of a casino at the proposed vacant Showcase Cinema site and the three-million-dollar annual impact payment from MMCT will more than mitigate any impact on our community. East Windsor's police Chief Ed DeMarco will speak to you later about public safety and traffic. In addition to the annual impact payment, East Windsor will receive 5.5 million dollars in property tax revenue. This will give the Town of East Windsor 8.5 million dollars annually. This is \$762 per capita as compared to MGM Springfield's agreement that comes to \$163 per capita. This will increase our property tax revenue by 18%.

The Town Charter and process charges the elected officials of the Board of Selectmen with entering contracts and zoning with regulating building construction and use. The Board or Selectmen have studied all aspects of the proposed casino in East Windsor and unanimously agree this proposal is best for East Windsor and voted unanimously on a bipartisan basis to approve the development agreement.

Finally, I would like to call to your attention to something a little more esoteric. I am 71 years old. I have lived and worked in Connecticut all my life. Connecticut is my home. I know and care about Connecticut. The farmers of East Windsor have farmed the land in East Windsor for generations. They care about their land and they care about their home. They care about East Windsor and they care about the State of Connecticut. They live in Connecticut now and they will live in Connecticut in the future. They are not going anywhere. Likewise, the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribal Nations love their land. They have lived on their land for generations. They care about their land. They care about their home. They care about Connecticut and they are not going anywhere. I believe East Windsor working with the Tribal Nation can be a major part in rebuilding North Central Connecticut. Connecticut has a lot to do and I believe, if you want to ensure the success of a rebirth of Connecticut, you must enable and entrust the people who live in Connecticut and care about Connecticut to do the job.