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State of Connecticut
SENATE

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Veterans' Affairs Committee

Public Safety and Security Committee

March 9, 2017

LOB 2E 8:30 AM

In **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 957
An Act Concerning the Regulation of Gaming
and the Authorization of a Casino Gaming Facility in the State

Chairman Larson, Chairman Verrengia, Chairman Guglielmo, and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, thank you for hearing Senate Bill 957. I am here to testify in **support** of SB 957, *An Act Concerning the Regulation of Gaming and the Authorization of a Casino Gaming Facility in the State*.

My name is Cathy Osten and I represent the 19th Senate District, which includes the towns of Columbia, Franklin, Hebron, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Marlborough, Montville, Norwich, and Sprague.

As you know, both Foxwoods Resort Casino and Mohegan Sun Casino are located in my district. I am fully supportive of Connecticut's casinos, which have proved to be excellent business partners to our state and are an invaluable part of our tourism economy. I believe this is good legislation that should receive bipartisan support. Good paying jobs in the gaming industry are the backbone of tourism in Connecticut.

The bill before you today establishes a transparent and thorough process under which we can authorize an additional gaming facility, to be located in north central Connecticut. It is vital to our state's economy that we not only protect our tourism dollars from being siphoned off to other states, but that we grow jobs and draw visitors to our state's great attractions.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 957. I look forward to working with the leadership and members of this committee on this bill's passage.