

Testimony of John Pearson

In support of

SB 957, An Act Concerning the Regulation of Gaming and
the Authorization of a Casino Gaming Facility in the State

Before the Public Safety Committee

Good afternoon everyone.

My name John Pearson and I am a lifelong Connecticut resident. I've been a Mohegan Sun employee for over 20 years, since day one!

The bill before you today is meant to accomplish a very important goal, to preserve jobs and save needed state revenue. It's that simple. I am honored to speak today on behalf of my friends and colleagues here and back at the Casino whose very jobs are at risk.

You see, I am a single Dad and my 8 year old son Dylan is counting on me to provide for us.

A misconception that I hear from time to time is that the jobs and career paths that Mohegan Sun and the gaming industry as a whole have to offer are not "good" jobs. Well. I can assure you that this is not the case.

There are many different career choices available to folks that choose our industry for their career path. From I.T, to Culinary, Accounting to Construction, Marketing and Advertising to the various specialists it takes to round out a Human Resources dept and of course, the Gaming Staff, just to name a few.

As someone who works in Table games, I have the pleasure of working every day with terrific people who make a decent salary and enjoy a great benefits package. Not only do we have medical coverage, but we also enjoy bonuses ,hot meals, uniforms and company events, family trips and outings all while we get to work in an exciting and fun environment. Sometimes its hard to believe that the music groups that I would listen to for hours when I was a kid now consistently come to perform where I work. Its kind of cool.

People have asked me from time to time why I have stayed with one company for so long? I think it's pretty clear. Mohegan Sun is constantly growing, evolving and staying ahead of the curve. It is a company that has never rested on its laurels and that I think is what keeps it from ever getting old.

I see this joint venture in East Windsor with our friends from Foxwoods as the next strategic step in Mohegan Sun staying ahead of that curve.

The State of CT must encourage its local industries to be innovative and competitive with surrounding states and that is what this project in East Windsor represents.

I am proud to stand shoulder to shoulder today with the very folks who are working to preserve jobs in Connecticut as our neighbors in Massachusetts look to steal them.

So, I hope you folks will think of my son and me as you think about the SB 957 and the future, because there are real life consequences to doing nothing.