

March 8, 2017

Dear Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

I am writing to you in opposition to SB 957- An Act Concerning the Regulation of Gaming and the Authorization of a Casino Gaming Facility in the State and Hb7239 - An Act Providing for the Regulation of Gaming to Protect Public Safety and a Competitive Process to Issue a Gaming License.

Voting yes for either bill is putting monetary over moral concerns regarding the welfare of the community. The temptation to build another casino in the state of Connecticut is no doubt strong as it will add new jobs for state residents and new revenue streams for the state government, a seemingly win-win situation. However, casinos have a slew of detrimental side effects including fostering gambling addiction, financially destabilizing families and communities, corrupting young people, and taking money away from local businesses, to name a few. The argument that the East Windsor casino is strategically placed to intercept gamblers from going to Springfield is a ruse as the latter, a grander more attractive project, is only ten miles away. East Windsor will be left with the chump change problem gamblers from the immediate neighborhood. There are better ways to create jobs that do not have the moral consequences of casinos and gambling.

Sincerely,

Ian Skoggard

New Haven