

Co-Chairs Larson, Verrengia, Guglielmo, Ranking Member Sredzinski, and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 957 and HB7239. I ask that you **Support SB 957** and **Oppose HB 7239**. First, let me share with the Public Safety and Security Committee that the Town of East Windsor is open for business. We have the access, the commercial property and infrastructure to support a third Connecticut Casino.

LOCATION:

Between I-91 North, between exits 44 and 46, is prime commercial real estate that has been underutilized for the last several years. Currently there is a bank, two restaurants, a Big Y, un-occupied Walmart, un-occupied movie theater and three houses (one un-occupied).

We have great restaurants such as the Maine Fish Market, Sofia's and Roberto's, local shopping and a Trolley and Fire Museum within walking distance.

The East Windsor Board of Selectmen have negotiated a fair deal for the Town of East Windsor and MMCT. East Windsor Public Safety has reviewed the requirements and needs for a third Connecticut Casino, and readily address the issues.

As a resident of East Windsor, I have had the opportunity attend all the public events, either at the Connecticut Legislature or in town for both Pro Casino and Against the Casino. I have had the opportunity to speak to leadership on both sides. While both Pro and Con have their arguments, I have made the determination I am for the casino in East Windsor.

Why am I in favor for a casino in East Windsor? I asked MMCT since gaming revenues have fallen off in Connecticut for the last several years, do they plan to be in East Windsor for the long term? No matter whom I spoke to at MMCT, the answer was a consistent "Yes".

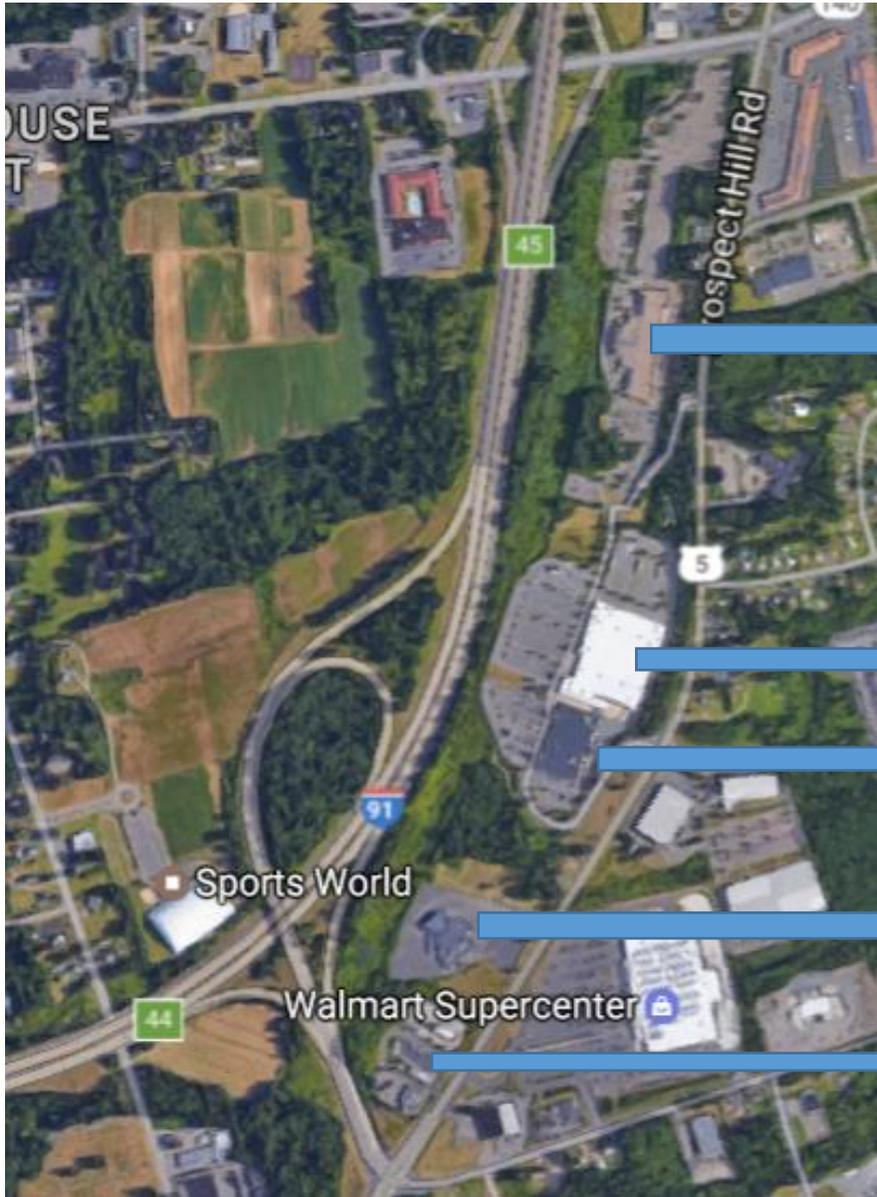
As a Board of Finance member, I want to diversify our tax base from approximately 69% residential, 23% commercial, and 8% industrial. A casino in East Windsor gives us this opportunity for this to happen. However, a casino should not be viewed as primary source of income, but as a vehicle for greater economic diversification and an economic multiplier.

Greater economic diversification leads to benefits in terms of jobs and revenue for the residents of East Windsor, North Central Connecticut, and the state of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Steve Smith

East Windsor Board of Finance



Former Movie Theater /
Proposed Casino

Unoccupied Walmart

Big Y Supermarket

Unoccupied Banquet Center

United Bank
KFC
Wendy's

