

Greater Hartford-New Britain Building & Construction Trades Council

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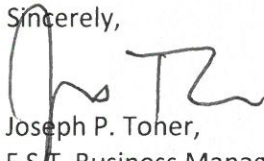
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Good Morning Chairman Verrengia, Co-Chairmen Senators Larson and Guglielmo and Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. My name is Joseph Toner, I am President of the Greater Hartford-New Britain Building & Construction Trades Council. My Council represents over 5,000 hard working men and women in Hartford County, Middlesex County, Windham County and Litchfield County. We stand in support of Senate Bill 957. The proposed casino development plan in East Windsor should be the model for all development projects across the state of Connecticut for the following reasons:

- 1). The MMCT Venture host town of East Windsor has worked out a financial agreement with the Tribes that will bring in much needed revenue. This agreement between the two (2) parties is a first in North Central Connecticut. Many Fortune 500 Companies have developed in surrounding towns only after receiving millions of dollars in tax incentives, infrastructure improvements and reduced building fees. In return they construct these projects with out of state contractors and workers that are paid less than the area standard.
- 2). The permanent jobs at the Casino will be unionized positions. Proper wages and benefits will be afforded to the Employees. This is a stark contrast to the aforementioned projects where most of the positions are part time low wage jobs.
- 3). There will be a Project Labor Agreement on this job. That means local construction workers will be working for area Contractors on this project making a living wage with benefits. In the Labor Agreement we include hiring provisions for returning Veterans, Minorities, Females and Apprentices. We will have hiring goals for Residents of North Central Connecticut. These jobs will be filled by Connecticut Building Trades Members.

In closing, I would strongly ask for your consideration in supporting this bill. Opportunities like this do not come along to often for the working class residents of the State of Connecticut. Developments that insure good paying construction jobs and permanent jobs should be given preference within the State. Good paying jobs will have a lasting positive effect in the region.

Sincerely,



Joseph P. Toner,
F.S.T, Business Manager – Ironworkers Local 15
President – Hartford-New Britain Building & Construction Trades Council