

Public Safety and Security Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-11

AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORIZATION OF A CASINO GAMING

Title: FACILITY IN EAST WINDSOR.

Vote Date: 3/19/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/26/2019

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Sen. Catherine A. Osten, 19th Dist.
Rep. Kevin Ryan, 139th Dist.
Sen. Steve Cassano, 4th Dist.
Sen. Timothy D. Larson, 3rd Dist.
Sen. Paul M. Formica, 20th Dist.
Sen. Heather S. Somers, 18th Dist.
Rep. Christine Conley, 40th Dist.
Rep. Linda A. Orange, 48th Dist.
Rep. Emmett D. Riley, 46th Dist.
Rep. Mike France, 42nd Dist.
Rep. Doug Dubitsky, 47th Dist.
Rep. Joe de la Cruz, 41st Dist.
Rep. Holly H. Cheeseman, 37th Dist.
Rep. Chris Soto, 39th Dist.
Rep. Kathleen M. McCarty, 38th Dist.
Rep. Kate Rotella, 43rd Dist.
Rep. Tom Delnicki, 14th Dist.
Rep. Christopher Davis, 57th Dist.
Rep. Tom Arnone, 58th Dist.
Rep. Larry B. Butler, 72nd Dist.
Rep. Henry J. Genga, 10th Dist.
Rep. Susan M. Johnson, 49th Dist.
Rep. Carol Hall, 59th Dist.
Sen. Saud Anwar, 3rd Dist.
Rep. Brian Lanoue, 45th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill allows the commercial casino in East Windsor to be authorized without federal approval of the amendments to the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan compact and the memorandum of understandings (MOU). By law, the amendments to the compact must include a provision that Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan's authorization to conduct authorized casino games in the state does not terminate the moratorium against operating video facsimile games (slots moratorium) and MOU's must include a provision that Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan's authorization to conduct authorized casino games in the state does not relieve the tribes of their obligation to contribute a percentage of the gross operating revenues of video facsimile games to the state under the MOUs (slot payments).

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Cathy Osten, State Senator

She testifies that we need to pass this bill in order to; create jobs, expand economic development, and further grow Connecticut's economy.

Paul Formica, State Senator

He testifies that this venture will bring the state much needed jobs and revenue.

Heather Somers, State Senator

She testifies that the state passed legislation last year to help move his project forward and they need to do it again. This project will bring much needed tourism and jobs to Connecticut. She states that if we plan to instead allow a casino like MGM to come into Connecticut then we risk losing all of the money coming in from the tribes.

Holly Cheeseman, State Representative

She testifies that this venture in East Windsor will bring Connecticut much needed revenue and jobs. She also states that Connecticut has received more than \$8billion from the tribes over the years, and we should honor that long standing relationship.

Christine Conley, State Representative

She testifies that this bill will bring needed jobs and revenue to the state. Additionally that we should honor the compact we made with the tribes, they have contributed a lot to the state.

Christopher Davis, State Representative

He testifies that this casino will improve Connecticut's tourism, and job growth in the region, and prevent them from going to Springfield. He also states that this venture will create needed jobs and revenue for the state. Additionally he testifies that this project will provide a large investment to East Windsor; \$8.5 million annually to the town initially, this is \$600 more per capita than MGM provided to Springfield.

Kathleen McCarthy, State Representative

She testifies that the proposed East Windsor casino would generate approximately \$70 million annually to the state. Additionally, the tribes have projected around 5,000 new jobs.

Lastly, she states that the tribes have contributed so much to the state already, and that we cannot afford to lose this partnership.

Rodney Butler, Chairman, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

He testifies that by passing this bill the casino will bring \$70million in revenue. They have plans in place to hire approximately 5,000 people to help get the project started and continue to work for them once they open; Trade workers, facility employees. Lastly, he states that this will continue a positive relationship that the tribes have had with the state, which has brought the state more than \$8 billion.

Diana Goode, Executive Director, CT Council on Problem Gambling

She testifies how that if additional gaming were to be legalized more safeguards would be needed such as; funds dedicated to treating addiction, proper training for sports betting operators, establishing a regulatory agency, and age restrictions.

Christopher Cipolla, Senior Manager of Government Affairs, DraftKings Inc.

He states how Draftkings was the first mobile sports wagering application outside of Nevada, and how they now currently operate in New Jersey. He states how sports wagering is already going on in Connecticut, and how 30 states are currently looking to pass sport wagering legislation. In addition, 7 jurisdictions have adopted legislation and are currently participating in sports wagering. In January 2019, New Jersey generated \$385 million from sports wagering, 80% of that from mobile devices. Mississippi, limiting themselves to casino betting, generated \$157 million in 2018. The Executive Director of the Mississippi gaming commission acknowledged the importance of betting being available on mobile devices. He then states how it is very important for a state to have multiple operators to run sports wagering. Additionally, being able to register and pay via a mobile device would be important. Lastly, DraftKings uses a technology to determine if a customer is underage, and they track problematic gambling behavior.

Bob Maynard, First Selectman, Town of East Windsor

He testifies that East Windsor is very excited to partner with the tribal nations. He states that MGM is a multi-billion-dollar corporation, the Mashantucket Pequot's and Mohegan's have made their homes in Connecticut. Lastly, he states that the tribes care about the people of Connecticut and MGM spends money trying to manipulate the decisions of Connecticut.

Daniel Steward, First Selectman, Town of Waterford

He testifies that Waterford lost an important company in Electric Boat, and the casinos helped with supplying jobs in this hard time. He also states that none of the proposed corporations that want to enter Connecticut have as good a relationship with the state as the casinos have.

Mike Urgo, First Selectman, North Stonington

He testifies that the tribal casinos contribute a substantial amount of money to local municipalities. He states that eastern Connecticut has a key role as an economic driver. Lastly he states that the tribes have shown commitment and loyalty to that state and we should do the same for them.

John Nimmons, Vice President, Greater Hartford-New Britain Building & Construction Trades Council

He testifies that this casino project would create good jobs, specifically for those in building trades.

Arthur Bell, Field Representative, Teamsters Local 559

He testifies that a casino in East Windsor would create jobs and would positively affect the Teamsters Local 559.

Ernest Pagan, member, Carpenter's Local 326

He testifies that whatever path the legislature takes be the best one that provides the most jobs to the state.

Bruce Silva, Business Manager, Electrical Workers Local Union 35

He testifies that the tribes are already in the progress of building the casino in East Windsor currently, and we need to continue to foster our good relationship with the tribes.

Ed Terris, President, Copy Cats Printing and Copying

He testifies that his business has grown with large part to the tribal casinos. He states that they caused a positive ripple effect in local businesses.

Charlie Aspinwall

He testifies that "The Bureau of Indian Affairs cannot take land into trust for any tribe unless they are economically disadvantaged." He also states that MGM have a bad relation with their dealers.

Vinny Eleazer

He testifies that without the casino in East Windsor, thousands of jobs are at risk. He also states that it would not be wise to abandon a relationship we've had with the tribes for 25 years, which has resulted in over \$8 billion for Connecticut.

Rob Gallagher

He testifies to how much working for Mohegan Sun has positively affected his life. He states that this proposed casino would compete with the Springfield casino and would bring much needed jobs and revenue to the state.

Roberta James-Brown

She testifies to how much working for Mohegan Sun has positively affected her life. She also states how if we fail to protect the Tribes casinos there could be a terrible domino effect wherein we lose a lot of our business.

Kayla Smith

He testifies to her positive working experience at Mohegan Sun, and how her job affords her many benefits she would be unable to find locally otherwise. She states that if the competition in Springfield remains unchallenged there could be consequences.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Michele Mudrick, Executive Director, The Coalition Against Casino Expansion in CT

[Pamela Arifian](#), [Carla Dawson](#), [Martha Diamant](#), [Carla Dietz](#), [Deborah Kirk](#), [Grace O'Connor](#), [Rev. Cass Shaw](#), [Rev. Kent Siladi](#), [Rev. Dr. Rochelle Stackhouse](#), [Patrick Thibodeau](#), [Rev. Shannon Wall](#), [Phillip and Linda Yannone](#)

Are other members of the Coalition Against casino Expansion in CT who testified on this bill.

She testifies that the Institute of American Values published a report which detailed that casinos depend on problem gambler for up to 50% of their revenue. She states that casinos drain the wealth of communities, weaken businesses, hurt property values, reduce civic participation, and increase the risk of broken families and crime and bankruptcy. She states that there are many social costs that come with gaming. She testifies that the affect casinos have on surrounds businesses outweigh the jobs and revenue they bring in. She states the problems resident shave with casinos in New Jersey, and how casinos in Delaware are filing for bankruptcy. A study in 2009 found that there was a 400% increase in arrests for embezzlements since the casinos opened in Connecticut. She then testifies on how gaming increases risks for crimes, drugs, and addiction. She cites a study done by the UConn School of medicine which states that lower socioeconomic groups are being affected the worst. She states that, in a Quinnipiac poll, 3 out of 4 citizens of Connecticut opposed more casinos.

[Susan Bevan](#)

She testifies that by expanding gaming it would be a burden on the roads, trains, and parking density. She also states that gambling is addictive and costly to citizens of CT.

[Woody Bliss](#)

He is opposed to the bill, testifies it will spread addiction.

[Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree](#)

He testifies that alcohol, drug use, gambling, domestic violence and divorce have been on the rise. He states that gambling has a negative impact for residents of the state.

[John Dunn](#)

He testifies that an East Windsor casino would only redistribute money brought in from the other casinos, and a casino in Bridgeport would create more crime.

[Ralph Jones](#)

He testifies that the burden of gambling addiction tends to fall onto the spouse and children of the addict. He states that Connecticut financial problems will not be cured by more gambling.

[Deacon David Reynolds, Associate Director of Public Policy, Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference](#)

He testifies that expansion of gaming is not in the best interest of the citizens. He references a study done by the Connecticut Division of Special Revenue which stated many negative social and economic impacts of the Indian casinos. He states that the UConn School of medicine said that gaming is affecting lower socioeconomic groups the hardest.

[Hector Rodriguez](#)

He testifies that a former teacher of his left his job to pursue gambling, and this could affect other people similarly.

Rev. Paul D. Sinnott

He testifies that he has sat with families affected by gambling addictions, and how their situations changed drastically. He states that it is becoming too easy to access gambling activities, and the social cost is too high.

Michele Vannelli

She testifies that more gaming is not a positive way to attack our state's debt. She states that the casino in Springfield has showed Connecticut that the financial numbers are not meeting expectations.

Rev. Candace Whitman

She testifies that gaming will not guarantee revenue or jobs in the long run. She states that Connecticut should instead invest in growing business sectors, supporting infrastructure, and strong communities.

Reported by: Assistant Clerk Don Cretella

Date: 4/4/19