



**Planning and Development Committee Public Hearing**

**March 6, 2019**

**Testimony of Jason Guyot, Foxwoods Resort Casino**

**In Support of House Bill 6940**

***An Act Authorizing Extended Liquor Sales in Designated Nightlife Entertainment Zones.***

Good morning Senators Cassano, Bradley and Champagne and Representatives McCarthy-Vahey, Baker and Zawistowski, and other honorable members of the Planning and Development Committee. My name is Jason Guyot and I am a proud member of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and I serve as Foxwoods Resort Casino's Senior Vice President of Operations.

Together with State Representative Chris Rosario, I appear before you today in support of House Bill 6940, "An Act Authorizing Extended Liquor Sales in Designated Nightlife Entertainment Zones." We are grateful for the opportunity to support the proposed bill because it is a critical step toward achieving greater parity and economic competitiveness for Connecticut's entertainment venues located in municipally-designated Nightlife Entertainment Zones and for the myriad vibrant entertainment venues located on our Tribal land at Foxwoods Resort Casino.

As a full service resort that caters to both domestic and international clientele, Foxwoods Resort Casino aggressively competes with gaming facilities in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania for the very same clientele. With the advent of expanded gaming competition just to our north in Massachusetts, we once again find ourselves at a competitive disadvantage because of Connecticut's historically narrow liquor service hours.

Just last year, Massachusetts recognized the importance of its entertainment venues to the health of its economy and acted to extend liquor service to 4 a.m. As you all are acutely aware, the entertainment and gaming industries are laser focused, not only on their clientele's safe enjoyment of their venues but also on the perceived weaknesses of their competition.

The success and vibrancy of Foxwoods Resort Casino and Mohegan Sun are just as important to the residents of Connecticut as they are to our Tribal Members because of our respective agreements with the State. In 2017 alone, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and the Mohegan Tribe jointly contributed nearly \$271 million to the General Fund for distribution to Connecticut's cities and towns. From the time that those agreements were executed between our nations and the State of Connecticut, our slots arrangements have yielded almost 8 billion dollars. While extending liquor service hours to 24 hours would be optimal, we firmly believe that extending liquor service hours to 4 a.m. will increase our slot revenue to the state.

Our success is your success.

We respectfully request that you advance House Bill 6940 to support all of Connecticut's entertainment venues' health and success by extending liquor service hours to 4 a.m.