



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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RANKING MEMBER
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE

MEMBER
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Testimony in Support of Proposed S.B. No. 11 AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORIZATION OF A CASINO GAMING FACILITY IN EAST WINDSOR.

Dear Chairmen Bradley and Verrengia, Ranking Members Hwang and Sredzinski, and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee:

I appreciate having the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Proposed S.B. No. 11 on your public hearing agenda today. As you are well aware, legislation was enacted authorizing MMCT to open a third casino in East Windsor. Since that time, progress has been stalled due to inaction on the part of the Department of the Interior.

The proposed legislation would remove this roadblock and allow work on the agreed upon new venture to proceed. This new legislation would recognize the historic partnership entered into by the Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nations. Not only will this result in much needed revenue to the state, East Windsor and neighboring municipalities, the new Tribal Winds casino is expected to support 5,000 jobs from the start of construction through the grand opening, with at least 2,000 jobs for the building trades during construction and 2,000 permanent jobs at the facility once it opens.

The state of Connecticut has received close to \$8 billion over the past 25 years, as a result of the 25 percent of gross slot revenue sent to the state by the two tribal casinos. Let us not allow bad faith actions of some in the Department of the Interior to delay any further the East Windsor Casino; let us honor the long-standing partnership between these two tribal nations and the state of Connecticut that has provided so many benefits to all residents.

Therefore, I respectfully urge you to support Proposed S.B. 11 AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORIZATION OF A CASINO GAMING FACILITY IN EAST WINDSOR. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Holly Cheeseman
State Representative, 37th District
East Lyme, Niantic, Salem