

Testimony of Vinny Eleazer  
In Support of

SB 11, An Act Concerning the Authorization of a Casino Gaming Facility in East Windsor.

Before the Public Safety Committee

February 26, 2019

Good Afternoon members of the Public Safety Committee, my name is Vinny Eleazer and I am a resident of Preston, CT. I am here today to speak in support of SB 11, An Act Concerning the Authorization of a Casino Gaming Facility in East Windsor.

Last year, I watched as the Connecticut House of Representatives approved legislation to allow for the development of the jointly operated casino in East Windsor. It was an incredible day. I believed Connecticut had taken a stand for over 9300 jobs at risk and millions in state revenue.

It saddens me that we are back here today discussing the very same issue.

You see, as a casino employee and a tribal member, this issue is very personal. I have worked at Foxwoods for over 23 years. As a member of housekeeping, I have worked hard to achieve my goals and provide a life for my family. I want the same for my co-workers.

I am here today, not only to speak on behalf of myself but for my countless colleagues. Single parents, folks who came to the casino right out of school and worked their way up. People with great jobs, health care and great benefits. Your action on this legislation will help to ensure their futures.

MGM has made it clear that their goal is to take revenue and visitors out of Mohegan Sun, Foxwoods and Connecticut and to bring that revenue to Massachusetts, and more specifically, their pockets. Without the East Windsor project, thousands of good paying jobs are at risk-it's that simple.

Why would we be willing to bet on empty promises from a company that made it clear what they are trying to do? The tribes have had a 25-year relationship with the state and have shared almost \$8billion in slot revenue with Connecticut and towns throughout the state. Is it worth giving all that up? The casinos have shared their success, supported the local communities and contributed to numerous charities throughout the state. We are not only a company we are active members of the community, something that will benefit East Windsor as well.

As you consider this bill, I want you to think about me, the many employees here today and the many, many more back at the Casinos. I also want you to think about the employees working in businesses around Connecticut that provide goods and services to Mohegan and Foxwoods. We need you to make the right decision and support SB 11.

Thank you for your consideration.