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TWENTIETH SENATE DISTRICT

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State of Connecticut
SENATE

DEPUTY SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

RANKING MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

MEMBER
EXEC. & LEGIS. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Testimony
Public Safety Committee
February 26, 2019
S.B. 11 and S. B. 17

Senator Bradley, Representative Verrengia, Senator Hwang and Representative Sredzinski, and members of the Public Safety Committee,

I write to testify in support of SB 11 AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORIZATION OF A CASINO GAMING FACILITY IN EAST WINDSOR and to testify in support of SB 17 AN ACT AUTHORIZING SPORTS WAGERING, INTERNET GAMBLING AND INTERNET KENO

Senate Bill 11 seeks to finalize a process to facilitate the opening of the joint venture East Windsor Casino Project previously approved by a bipartisan majority in the state legislature.

That bill had a requirement for the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to weigh in regarding their approval, either passive or active, a requirement SB11 seeks to remove as unnecessary as this is a Connecticut issue with CT revenues and CT jobs on the line. I urge the committee to approve this bill to get Connecticut back to work. The joint venture has spent millions of dollars to date on this project and should be allowed to complete the construction and open the East Windsor casino.

Senate Bill 17 seeks to provide our two currently operating casinos with more tools by which to compete with our border states with the allowance of sports and internet gambling as well as internet keno.

These are activities going on around us and should be a natural addition to our successful resort gaming operations and will comply with the existing compact.

Connecticut needs the jobs and the additional revenue this activity would provide, and I urge the committee to act favorably on both SB17 and SB11.

Thank you,

Paul M. Formica
Senate District 20