

Testimony of Rob Gallagher  
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 Rob Gallagher and I am a resident of Norwich, 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.

I want to make one thing very clear, my job is important to me and your actions on this bill could have a direct effect on me and my future. To put things in perspective, I went from a job without health benefits, without vacation or sick time in 1995 to a 20-year career at Mohegan Sun. I own a home today and even rental property. My car and my boat are both registered here, too. I have a lot invested in Connecticut and I contribute to the economy while also paying my fair share of taxes.

I have even taken advantage of the tuition reimbursement program at Mohegan Sun. It is hard to articulate just how much I appreciate my job.

I don't think the general public or our legislators truly understand what Connecticut casino employees put back into the local economy and how much it will impact the State if our jobs are lost.

Those of us who have made a career in Connecticut's world class gaming industry need to know that all of our legislators are doing everything they can to protect our jobs.

The bill before you today seeks to remove the last obstacle currently delaying the East Windsor (Tribal Winds) project. A project that is designed to give our casinos a fighting chance against MGM. A project to help protect thousands of jobs and the hundreds of millions in slot revenue that the Tribes give to the state each year.

On multiple occasions, the Connecticut General Assembly has approved steps to ensure that we remain competitive against a company that has its sights on our jobs and our revenue.

I urge you to think seriously about the consequences and to reaffirm your support for the East Windsor project by voting YES on SB 11. Thank you for your consideration.