

Testimony of Roberta James-Brown  
In support of  
SB 11, An Act Authorizing a Casino Gaming Facility in East Windsor

February 26, 2019

Good Afternoon distinguished members of the Public Safety Committee. My name is Roberta James-Brown and I am a resident of Norwich. I am here today to speak in support of SB 11, An Act Authorizing a Casino Gaming Facility in East Windsor.

I have worked at Foxwoods since 1998 and I am proud to be able to make that statement. How often do you hear today that someone has stayed with a company for over 20 years?

I started on the front line and worked my way up to the position I have today assisting employees and serving as an advocate for team members.

I share this with you because I want you to understand that casino jobs are good jobs and that mine is important to me and my family. All too often, people who don't work in our industry and have no idea about our salaries and benefits, imply that casino jobs are not "good jobs."

Frankly, with the decline in the defense industry, I don't know what Southeastern Connecticut would have done without the Casinos and the thousands of jobs they created.

I spoke last year about how detrimental a Massachusetts Casino would be to so many employees and their families. I want you to think about the husband and wife teams who work at both Casinos, or the single moms who are the only sources of income or people like me who have created a successful career that I am

proud of. My husband and I have purchased a home, raised a family and put our daughter through college, in part because of the “casino job” that I have. Our jobs are real and they matter.

I thought that message was conveyed effectively when the General Assembly approved legislation to allow for the development of a joint casino project in East Windsor to protect Connecticut jobs and the hundreds of millions in revenue that Foxwoods and Mohegan share with the state each year. Unfortunately, politics has interfered in the approval process in Washington, DC. SB 11 will right that wrong.

There would be a terrible domino effect if we fail to protect Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun in their quest to remain competitive. The negative impact would be felt throughout the region as both small and large communities where these gainfully employed “Casino workers” live, work, shop and play are impacted.

I am committed to saving these jobs and I hope you are too. Please pass SB 11 because it’s the right thing to do.