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State of Connecticut
SENATE

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Public Safety & Security Committee
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Legislative Management Committee
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Transportation Committee
Veterans' Affairs Committee

Public Safety and Security Committee
February 26, 2019
LOB 1E 10:00AM

In **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 11
*An Act Concerning the Authorization of a Casino
Gaming Facility in East Windsor*

Chairman Bradley, Chairman Verrengia, and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, I am here to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 11, *An Act Concerning the Authorization of a Casino Gaming Facility in East Windsor*.

My name is Cathy Osten and I represent the 19th Senate District, which includes the towns of Columbia, Franklin, Hebron, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Marlborough, Montville, Norwich, and Sprague.

As discussed earlier this year at the committee's January 29th, 2019 forum with the leaders of the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes, Senate Bill 11 seeks to clarify the current authorization of a casino gaming facility in East Windsor, Connecticut. This clarification is needed following a 2017 letter from the U.S. Department of the Interior indicating that federal approval of the 2017 amendment to the State-Tribal Compact is "likely unnecessary". Because the 2017 Amendment addressed the exclusivity provisions of the existing gaming compact, the Interior Department found that there was insufficient information to reject it outright. The department's letter states that:

"The Tribes have entered an agreement with the State whereby they have agreed that the exclusivity provisions will not be breached by this arrangement. Therefore, our action is unnecessary at this time."

To create jobs, expand economic development, and further grow Connecticut's economy, we need to take action. Every day that we delay this project more jobs and more hard-earned dollars flow out-of-state.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 11. I look forward to working with the leadership and members of this committee on this bill's passage.



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

SEP 15 2017

The Honorable Kevin P. Brown
Chairman, Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut
13 Crow Hill Road
Uncasville, Connecticut 06382

Dear Chairman Brown:

On August 2, 2017, the Department of the Interior received the Agreement between the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut (Tribe) and the State of Connecticut (State) dated July 20, 2017, related to the conduct of Gaming by the Tribe. The Agreement memorializes amendments to the Tribal-State Compact previously entered into between the Tribe and the State. Specifically, the Agreement amends sections 2, 15(a), and 17(d) (Amendment) of the Tribal-State Compact.

We have completed our review of the Amendment. We return the Amendment to you to maintain the status quo as action on the Amendment is premature and likely unnecessary. The Amendment addresses the exclusivity provisions of the Gaming Compact. We find that there is insufficient information upon which to make a decision as to whether a new casino operated by the Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot Tribes (Tribes) would or would not violate the exclusivity clauses of the Gaming Compact. The Tribes have entered an agreement with the State whereby they have agreed that the exclusivity provisions will not be breached by this arrangement. Therefore, our action is unnecessary at this time.

A similar letter is being sent to the Honorable Rodney Butler, Chairman, Mashantucket Pequot Indian Tribe, and the Honorable Dannel P. Malloy, Governor of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Black
Acting Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Dean Heller
The Honorable Mark Amodei