

Testimony of Kayla Smith
Before the Public Safety Committee
February 26, 2019

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

Good afternoon Senators and Representatives, I am here to speak in support of SB 11, An Act Concerning the Authorization of a Casino Gaming Facility in East Windsor.

My name is Kayla Smith and I live in Ledyard, CT. This August will mark my tenth year working at Mohegan Sun. After high school, I immediately entered the workforce. Inspired by the stories of friends and family who have made a good life for themselves by working at the casinos, I applied for a job at the casino. I am very proud to have been hired by Mohegan Sun months out of high school. I began working part time in the Valet and Arena Concessions departments.

Over the years, I was encouraged to work my way up the career ladder. It wasn't long before I was working full time in VIP Services. Currently, I work in Mohegan Sun's Guest Relations & Human Resources Department. I have the pleasure of working with our patron's every day to ensure their experience at our entertainment facility is world class.

Living in southeastern Connecticut there aren't many opportunities for employment which provide high school graduates like me with quality career opportunities and a clear pathway to a sustainable middle class lifestyle. My job at Mohegan Sun is important to me and affords me many benefits that I would not be able to find locally.

I know what businesses do when new competition opens, they must respond. We are here today to ask you not to further delay the response to increasing competition. If you, the Connecticut Legislature and the State Government do not allow the Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot Tribes respond to completion as they would like I fear the consequences.

I worry that unchecked competition will negatively impact Mohegan Sun's success and if I lose my job, I will not be able to find a similar job with the level of pay and benefits I currently receive. While local businesses have

been laying off workers or not hiring, Mohegan Sun not only hired me, they provided me with promotions and a wonderful opportunity for growth and personal development.

I enjoy and appreciate my job at Mohegan Sun and hope that their success will continue to be my success-much like it has been the state's success.

I hope you will continue to work with the Tribes to ensure my job and the jobs of thousands of others like me are protected. I urge you to pass SB 11 to give us all a fighting chance.

Thank you.