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February 22, 2019

Public Testimony regarding Bill SB #11

Public Safety Committee  
Co-Chair: Senator Dennis Bradley  
Co-Chair: Representative Joe Verrengia

Dear Committee:

As I am unable to attend this public hearing due to other commitments, I will provide my comments in this forum.

Waterford, as a community, is in favor of supporting the casino in Windsor and maintaining the exclusivity of the Tribal compacts that have served our community and our State well over the past 25 years. When Electric Boat was in the process of downsizing their employment staff, the casinos filled in with over 20,000 jobs to help bridge the gap for Southeastern Connecticut.

The economic damages that would have been incurred as a loss of Electric Boat employees was well mitigated by the casinos during a significant recession. The facility in Windsor would be a complement to other businesses in the State by bringing in guests as well as paying significant sums to the State which is in need of an influx of funding.

In summary, I continue to support the third joint venture casino and firmly believe that we should not open this up to other corporations who simply do not have the good working history with the State nor the intrinsic interest as sovereign nations within our borders.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely

Daniel Steward  
First Selectman  
Town of Waterford