



**PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEARING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019**

**Testimony of Chuck Bunnell, Chief of Staff for the Mohegan Tribe**

**S.B. No. 1014 AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR COMPULSIVE GAMBLING TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION.**

**S.B. No. 1015 AN ACT CONCERNING ONLINE LOTTERY DRAW GAMES IN THE STATE.**

**H.B. No. 7290 AN ACT CONCERNING STUDIES OF THE EFFECT OF LEGALIZED GAMBLING.**

**H.B. No. 7330 AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF ONLINE GAMBLING.**

**H.B. No. 7331 AN ACT CONCERNING SPORTS WAGERING IN THE STATE.**

**H.B. No. 7334 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION ON GAMING.**

Co-Chairs Bradley and Verrengia, Ranking Members Hwang and Sredzinski, and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. My name is Chuck Bunnell, and I'm the Chief of Staff for the Mohegan Tribe. Unfortunately, my schedule does not allow me to testify in person, I appreciate the ability to submit the following testimony on the above-captioned bills.

With respect to **S.B. No. 1014 AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR COMPULSIVE GAMBLING TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION**, the amount the state dedicates is a decision for the policy makers of the state to make. The Mohegan Tribe and the Mohegan Sun takes our responsibility very seriously and we are committed to ensuring that those who need help find it. In addition to the significant financial support Mohegan Sun provides to those who are combatting gambling addiction, Mohegan Sun supports the training of our employees to spot and assist problem gamblers, stopping underage gambling and has a state-of-the-art self-exclusion program for people who need to exercise that option.

**We have concerns: S.B. No. 1015 AN ACT CONCERNING ONLINE LOTTERY DRAW GAMES IN THE STATE.** The bill recognizes that the expansion of on-line operations by the CT Lottery Corporation thorough any internet, online or mobile application would violate the existing compacts that the state has negotiated and signed with the two federally recognized Connecticut tribes. Should the bill progress, we urge the legislature to not lose sight of this important fact.

**We support: H.B. No. 7290 AN ACT CONCERNING STUDIES OF THE EFFECT OF LEGALIZED GAMBLING,** more information is always better than less information. As Connecticut considers the expansion of legalized gaming in the state across several dimensions and platforms, it must

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do so with its eyes wide open and in possession of all the facts. The state must fully understand both impact of such expansion and be cognizant of any unanticipated consequences that could arise

**H.B. No. 7330 AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF ONLINE GAMBLING and H.B. No. 7331 AN ACT CONCERNING SPORTS WAGERING IN THE STATE.**

Mohegan Sun is one of the current operators of Sports and On-line gaming in New Jersey, Aviram Alroy, Vice President of Interactive Gaming at Mohegan Sun will be providing expert in person testimony on H.B. No. 7330 and H.B. No. 7331. We believe that Connecticut should move forward with both sports wagering and online gaming as soon as possible. The gaming landscape is very competitive in New England and the longer Connecticut delays entering this entertainment market the more difficult it will be to grow our markets and protect Connecticut jobs and revenue. All these issues must be done understanding how any expansion of legalized gaming impacts the compact that the state has negotiated with the two federally recognized Connecticut tribes.

**H.B. No. 7334 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION ON GAMING**, would establish a Commission on Gaming and transfer oversight of gambling in this state from the Department of Consumer Protection to the commission. Should the state expand its gaming activities beyond those currently authorized and being conducted by the two federally recognized tribes, we would obviously work within any structure you create and the establishment of such a Commission is a common form of state oversight in many of the states that we have commercial gaming entities. That being said, the work and oversight by DCP has been excellent and we have always worked well together.

Connecticut can sit on the sidelines while neighboring states attract our customers, or we can understand the challenges around us and craft progressive legislation that allows us to compete with our neighbors and grow Connecticut jobs and Connecticut revenue.

Our success is your success, both Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods Resort Casino are just as important to the residents of Connecticut as they are to our Tribal Members because of our respective agreements with the State. In 2017 the Mohegan Tribe and Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation jointly contributed nearly \$271 million to the General Fund for distribution to Connecticut's cities and towns. From the time that those agreements were executed between our nations and the State of Connecticut, our slots arrangements have yielded almost 8 billion dollars.

Thank you for the opportunity to present these views.

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