Public Safety and Security Committee Public Hearing

February 26, 2019

Testimony of John Rosa

on behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 488 Regarding House Bill 7055, *AN ACT CREATING THE CONNECTICUT GAMING COMMISSION AND CREATING A COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCESS FOR A RESORT-CASINO.*

Chairman Bradley, Chairman Verrengia, Vice Chair Osten, Vice Chair Paolillo, Ranking Member Sredzinski, Ranking Member Hwang and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

I am member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 488. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of IBEW Local 488 in **strong support** of House Bill 7055, An Act creating the Connecticut Gaming Commission and creating a competitive bidding process for a resort-casino.

Competitive bidding for a resort-casino in the state will offer the best scenario for our state and the communities where it would be built. By establishing a Gaming Commission and creating a competitive bidding process, we can update our existing gaming laws and increase revenue to our state.

MGM Bridgeport's proposed plan is a terrific case in point. 7,000 jobs for the city and the region at no cost to taxpayers. Not less than $8 million annually to Bridgeport, benefits to neighboring communities and an investment of $12 million in workforce development. However, while MGM is leading the way in this legislative process, this bill will only offer MGM, and competitors, a path to an open bidding process for the best possible project.

The construction of a resort casino would create great middle-class opportunities for our current tradespeople and continue to allow apprenticeship programs to train our communities for the future; all with decent wages, healthcare, retirement benefits, pride, and dignity on and off the job.

Sent from my iPhone