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TWENTIETH SENATE DISTRICT

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**State of Connecticut**  
**SENATE**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER PRO TEMPORE**

**RANKING MEMBER**  
ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE  
EXEC. & LEGIS. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
FINANCE, REVENUE & BONDING COMMITTEE

Testimony

Public Safety and Security Committee Public Hearing

March 2, 2021

*In Support of:*

*S.B. No. 146 An Act Authorizing Sports Wagering, Online Casino Gaming, Online Lottery and Online Keno*

*H.B. No. 6451 An Act Concerning Gaming Agreements with The Mashantucket Pequot Tribe and The Mohegan Tribe of Indians Of Connecticut*

*H.B. No. 6512 (RAISED) An Act Concerning Consumer Protections for Sports Wagering*

Chairmen Bradley and Horn, Ranking Members Champagne and Green, and the distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, I am Sen. Paul Formica, and today I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 146, House Bill 6451, and House Bill 6512.

Our legislature has been having a lot of conversations lately about "getting with the times" and I am here today to urge you to support these measures to introduce sports betting and online gaming as the latest effort to stay relevant. Connecticut is on the verge of being left in the dust of our neighbors in choosing whether to adapt alongside an industry who has had to move their operations from largely in-person to almost entirely online.

These three bills, or some compromise considering the separate proposals, would enable a new source of revenue to be available for the State of Connecticut. As our state embarks on the toughest economic recovery it has seen in a lifetime, it is imperative that Connecticut is equipped with every possible tool to succeed.

These bills continue to build on the strong, bipartisan partnership the state government has with the Tribes. This partnership is fueled by respect and serves as a financial benefit to all involved. The slot revenue from the two casinos produces over \$260 million annually and the state cannot afford to lose that.

Likewise, the Tribes' philanthropic activities, the tens of thousands of jobs they continue to create, the quality of the two largest casino resorts in the world right here in Eastern Connecticut, and importantly their history and love for their land and people cannot be lost.

Investing in this new online technology and continuing the state's partnership with the Tribal Nations will protect Connecticut jobs, support our communities and continue to provide for all their employees in Southeastern Connecticut.

Thank you for your consideration, and I urge your support of these bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Formica', enclosed within a large, loopy oval flourish.

Paul M. Formica  
State Senator, 20<sup>th</sup> District