



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE HOLLY CHEESEMAN
THIRTY-SEVENTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE

MEMBER
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

March 2, 2021 * 9:30am * Zoom

Testimony in Support of S.B. No. 146 AN ACT AUTHORIZING SPORTS WAGERING, ONLINE CASINO GAMING, ONLINE LOTTERY AND ONLINE KENO.

Dear Chairs Bradley and Horn, Ranking Members Champagne and Green, and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee:

I appreciate having the opportunity to submit testimony in support of S.B. No. 146 on your public hearing agenda today. In 2018, the United States Supreme Court ruled in [*Murphy v. National Collegiate Athletic Association*](#) that the [*Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act*](#) violated the 10th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. That effectively removed federal level restrictions on sports wagering. Since that time, numerous states, including our neighbor Rhode Island, have passed legislation authorizing such wagers. Connecticut is well placed to follow suit, given our existing partnership with the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribal Nations.

The Committee bill would authorize our partners to move ahead and conduct such gaming, subject to the appropriate safeguards. The two tribal nations have decades of experience in administering and overseeing legal gaming in this state and are the parties best suited to embark on this gaming venture, new to the state of Connecticut.

The bill also provides a comprehensive way forward on a number of other gaming opportunities while offering additional financial support to towns and cities throughout the state of Connecticut. The bill recognizes the increased burden on towns in eastern Connecticut and provides commensurate financial support to those communities. The bill also supplies a path forward for the revenue required to fund PACT, the free community college program recently authorized by the legislature.

Therefore, I respectfully urge you to support S.B. 146, AN ACT AUTHORIZING SPORTS WAGERING, ONLINE CASINO GAMING, ONLINE LOTTERY AND ONLINE KENO.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Holly Cheeseman". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Holly Cheeseman
State Representative, 37th District
East Lyme, Niantic, Salem