

State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Public Safety and Security Committee
March 2, 2021
Zoom 9:30AM

In **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 146
*An Act Authorizing Sports Wagering, Internet Gaming,
Internet Lottery and Internet Keno*

Chairman Bradley, Chairwoman Horn, and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, we are here to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 146, *An Act Authorizing Sports Wagering, Internet Gaming, Internet Lottery and Internet Keno*.

As we know, Connecticut's federally-recognized Native American Tribal Nations play a critically important role in creating jobs, driving regional tourism, and generating much needed revenue for the State of Connecticut. Our over 30 plus year partnership has created thousands of jobs for our state's residents and over \$9 billion in revenue for our state and its cities and towns.

With the passage of this bill, we embrace the modernization of the gaming industry in our great state. This legislation is first, and foremost, a jobs bill. As we know, Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun are two of the largest employers in our state. Like any industry whose survival rests on continued growth, we must be willing to undertake the necessary measures to help our gaming partners spur innovation and embrace new technology. Much in the same way the legislature adapted to conducting its business online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so too should Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun.

Working within the existing framework established by the gaming compacts with the Mashantucket Pequots and Mohegan tribal nations, this legislation permits the operation of sports betting and internet gaming. We believe the State of Connecticut should honor its word and abide by the agreements it made with our tribal partners. This bill is a win-win for our tribal partners, the Connecticut lottery, and most of all, the citizens of our state.

In our view, to abandon a working and mutually beneficial relationship in the hopes of negotiating a better deal with out-of-state players is a fool's errand and would subject the State of Connecticut to much risk as the tribes would be under no legal obligation to continue with our mutually agreed upon gaming compacts; compacts which have proven to be fruitful time and time again.

For our money, we are betting on our hometown team and its proven, winning record.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 146. We look forward to working with the leadership and members of this committee on this bill's passage.



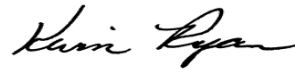
Catherine A. Osten
Senator, 19th District



Christine Conley
Representative, 40th District



Norm Needleman
Senator, 33rd District



Kevin Ryan
Representative, 139th District



Anthony Nolan
Representative, 39th District



Joe de la Cruz
Representative, 41st District