

# Coalition Against Casino Expansion in CT

## Talking Points for Legislator Meetings

Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_\_ Thank you for meeting with me/us today. ( Introduce yourselves and your organization/faith community) We are members of The Coalition Against Casino Expansion in CT and hope you will support us in opposing another casino from being built in CT.

We are opposing another casino in CT for several reasons and we'd like to talk about a few (use the 12 reasons document, other information on our website [www.nomorecasinosinct](http://www.nomorecasinosinct), your personal stories etc..)

- Hand Legislator a copy of the “12 reasons to oppose legalizing Commercial Casino Gambling and opening a Hartford Area Casino” and the book *Why Casinos Matter*.
- Go over several of these points with the Legislator and point out the members of the Coalition.

**Two reasons** may come up as to why the legislator may be in support of the casino, and they usually are because of the *revenue* it brings to the state ( the state gets 25% of the slot revenue) and the *jobs* it creates.

### To answer the question regarding the **REVENUE**:

- It's very questionable as to how much new revenue will be brought into the state by a third casino, as Senator Hwang mentioned at our press conference, we may be making a bet on an industry that is declining in its potential and a saturated marketplace. There are casinos all around us. We have the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest one in the world in our state. If we were to grow this industry, we would create more addictive gamblers which has a huge societal cost.
- 40-60% of the revenue we get comes from the backs of the poor, addicted, the elderly, low wage workers, and the disabled.
- Quinnipiac study found 70% of CT residents do not want more casinos.
- The economic study the tribes commissioned did not take into account the economic and social costs. Economist Earl Grinols, the country's leading independent expert on casino expansion, calculated that on average the long-term economic and social costs of introducing a new casino to an area outweigh its benefits 3 to 1.
- A NJ referendum voted 4 to 1 against casino expansion and realized that casinos have become an economic and social deadend.

### To answer the question regarding **JOBS**:

- The Casino industry is oversaturated. 8,000 jobs have been lost at the two casinos in our state over the past several years. It is not a growing industry. We need to be thinking of jobs that add value, create real products, and provide a living wage for the future. We need to focus on jobs in industries that are not declining in potential. Also, if this industry was to grow, we would produce more addictive gamblers which have tremendous societal costs.
- Casinos now are laying off workers. Profits are down 40%.
- Many casino jobs are shift workers — low-wage jobs without health benefits. Casino workers have increased risk for gambling problems.

Send a thank you note to Legislator. Let Michele Mudrick know how the meeting went and who you met with at [michelem@ctucc.org](mailto:michelem@ctucc.org)