

**Appropriations Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT**

Bill No: SB-388 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT AND MOHEGAN

Title: FUND.

Vote Date: 4/1/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/12/2026

File No.: 647

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Appropriations Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill is proposed to address the concerns revolving the allocations of the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund (MMPF). There has been concerns that the original intent of the Fund has strayed away from its intended purpose.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):

LCO 3731 added reference to the Mohegan agreement and changed the start date for new distribution amount to 2028.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Joshua Wojcik, Acting Secretary, Office of Policy and Management (OPM) – Secretary Wojcik submitted testimony on behalf of OPM in opposition to the bill stating that the bill would require a significant increase in funding to the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund from approximately \$52.6 million to \$152.4 million annually, resulting in a significant impact on the state budget. He noted that this increase would require \$100 million in additional funding and could bring the state out of compliance with the constitutional spending cap, while diverting resources needed to balance the General Fund. He also expressed concern that restricting the state's ability to reduce transfers without emergency certification would limit budget flexibility. Additionally, he indicated that while municipal aid had increased through other programs in recent years, and that the administration's concerns that led to the Governor's prior veto of similar legislation remain unchanged.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

William Pizzuto, State Representative, CGA – Representative Pizzuto submitted testimony in support of SB 388 as a measure to restore the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund to its original intent of using gaming revenue to support municipalities. He argues that the state had increasingly diverted funds despite rising revenue, reducing the aid distributed to towns. He emphasized that in the Fund’s first year, the State collected approximately \$88 million all of which was distributed to local governments. Although the State now receives approximately \$139 million annually from Tribal Nations the Governor’s proposed budget allocates only \$54,072,789, which is less than half of the revenue received. Municipalities like Middlebury continue to struggle with inflation and unfunded state mandates, and restoring full distribution of these funds would help residents and better support local governments financially.

Rodney Butler, Chairman- Chairman Butler testified in support of this bill as it reinforces the partnership between the Tribal Nations and the State of Connecticut. He highlighted that through gaming agreements, the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribes have contributed billions to the state’s economy and supported local communities. He explained that the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund was created to ensure that this economic activity benefits surrounding towns and regions. The bill would maintain a stable and predictable funding structure, allowing continued investment in local communities, economic development, and public services. He strongly supported the bill as it strengthens regional collaboration and shared economic success.

James Gessner Jr, Chairman, The Mohegan Tribe- Chairman Gessner submitted testimony on behalf of the Mohegan Tribe, in support of the bill. He stated that the bill would increase the distribution of revenue generated from tribal gaming to Connecticut’s municipalities, particularly in southeastern Connecticut. The tribe emphasized that these revenues have historically contributed to the state and local communities that increasing distributions would strengthen local economies. The testimony also highlighted the importance of continued cooperation and partnership between the tribe, the state, and municipalities, and indicated that the bill would provide additional financial support to communities.

Betsy Gara, Executive Director, COST- Ms. Betsy supported the bill on the behalf of The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) in increasing the funds for the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan grant program. The Fund provided towns and cities with the funds of critical services including education, public health, safety, and infrastructure. Due to rising inflation costs, municipalities need additional aid to alleviate property tax increases. COST advocated for the increase in funds as well as provisions to prevent monies to being swept unless the Governor declares an emergency and a two- thirds affirmative vote of the state legislature.

Randall Collins, Associate Director of Policy, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, CCM - Director Collins supported the bill on the behalf of CCM to increase the monies for the Mashantucket Pequot- Mohegan Fund. Originally when the fund was created in 1994, the purpose was to provide needed revenues to towns and cities impacted by casino operations. However, the state had deviated from the original purpose leading to the lowest amount allocated to towns and cities. CCM also supported the language in support

of the prohibition of money swept away from the fund unless in an emergency declared by the Governor.

Samuel Gold, Executive Director, RiverCOG- Director Gold supported this bill among side of The Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) to ensure the Mashantucket Pequot-Mohegan Fund is fully funded and distributed to municipalities as originally intended. He explained that rising municipal costs and increasing state mandates place growing pressure on local budgets and property taxpayers. He emphasized that passing the bill would demonstrate the state's commitment to supporting municipalities and providing reliable funding.

Andrew Tierney, Town Manager, Town of Hebron- Mr. Tierney noted that the proposal would increase distributions from the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund from \$54 million to \$152 million, providing additional revenue to municipalities. He expressed concern that, over time, funding from the fund had been inconsistent and had been reduced or redirected by the state to address budget deficits. He stated that restoring the fund to its original intent of fully supporting municipalities would provide more stable and predictable funding. He also indicated that these funds were critical in helping towns manager financial pressures, including the impact of unfunded state mandates.

Bill Middleton, First Selectman, Town of Stonington- Selectman Middleton in collaboration with his colleagues from the SECOG region. He briefly talked about the origins of the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund which started in 1994 to provide revenue to 169 towns and cities impacted by casino operations. The fund is built of 25% of the gross slot revenues generated by Foxwoods Resort Casino and Mohegan Sun. Throughout time, the number of monies had decreased leading to the state using it to address state budget deficits and the reduction of municipalities to which they received less than half of the total revenue. He strongly encouraged the State to return The Fund to go back on its original intent by allocating 100% of the funds to local towns and cities.

Brendan Rea Sr, First Selectman, Town of Durham- Selectman Rea is in support of SB 388 on the behalf of the Town of Durham which would increase funding from the Mashantucket Pequot-Mohegan Fund from \$54 million to \$152 million to provide municipalities with needed non-property tax revenue and reduce reliance on property taxes. The testimony highlighted the fund's inconsistent distribution and past diversion of funds by the state, arguing that restoration is necessary especially given current state surpluses. It also emphasized the importance of stable and predictable funding for municipal planning and notes support from tribal nations and local organizations, stating that SB 388 would return the fund to its original purpose of supporting towns and cities.

Brian Wissinger, Chief Financial Officer, Town of Somers- Mr. Wissinger stated that the bill would increase funding to the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund from \$54 million to \$152 million, which would provide additional non-property tax revenue to municipalities and help reduce reliance on local property taxes. He noted that towns like Sommers have experienced funding reduction in recent years and emphasized that restoring funding would provide more equitable and consistent financial support to municipalities. He also indicated that the bill would improve funding stability by limiting the state's ability to reduce transfers from the fund, ensuring more predictable aid for towns.

Cheryl Blanchard, First Selectman, Town of Sprague- Selectman Blanchard supported this bill among her colleagues in the SECOG region. She explained the background of the Fund's purpose to providing revenues to towns and cities directly impacted by casino operations with the Tribal Nations. Over time, the funds have been used to address state budget deficits reducing the amount of funds to municipalities. While the State currently receives \$139 million in revenue annually, only \$54 million are distributed to municipalities which is less than half of the revenue received. The restoration of the full 100% of revenues to the Fund will support property tax relief to Connecticut residents and address the growing burden of unfunded state mandates. She strongly supported the legislation of allocating 100% of casino revenues to municipalities.

Chris Lippke, First Selectman, Town of Canterbury- Selectman Lippke wrote testimony on behalf of Canterbury in support of the bill. He emphasized the importance of The Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund and its role in helping local towns and cities with the rising costs with essential local services including public safety, education, infrastructure maintenance, and transportation. He highlighted that small towns like Canterbury rely on the stability and clarity in state revenue for budgeting and long term planning, and even small fluctuations can have significant impacts. He further explained that this bill would further balance and fairness in funding distribution. He strongly urged support for the bill to help sustain local services without increasing the burden on property taxpayers.

Connor Martin, Mayor, Town of East Hartford- Mayor Martin speaks on the behalf of East Hartford supporting this bill. He stated that funding this bill would give support to communities across Connecticut with non-property tax revenue and help with the pressures of local property taxes. Throughout the years, East Hartford's funds have decreased every year which increases the pressure on municipalities. The Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund provide resources to localities to help strength the partnership between state and its municipalities. The increase of this funding will help support towns and cities in operating and delivering critical services. Connecticut's economic strength and quality of life is built off municipalities having a strong foundation.

Eric Couture, First Selectman, Town of Killingworth- Selectman Couture supported this bill on the behalf of the Town of Killingworth. He explained many towns and cities including Killingworth have received zero revenue from the fund resulting to the increase of property taxes to address service needs. As a result, Connecticut residents are faced with affordability issues. He encouraged the bill as a step forward to addressing the issues on affordability and a stable revenue towards municipalities.

Fred Allyn III, Mayor, Town of Ledyard- Mr. Allyn fully supported this bill and the amended changes to transferring the funds to the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund. He stated that the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund had recently been labeled to provide budgetary flexibility, however this contradicts with the intended purpose of the bill. He also explained how municipalities cover unfunded or partial mandates including MS-4 draining reporting, Veterans tax exemption and early voting which increases the costs for residents. Therefore, he strongly encouraged the allocation of monies to municipalities and for the fund to return to its original purpose to support Connecticut towns.

Jason Bowsza, First Selectman, Town of East Windsor- Selectman Bowsza supported this bill in restoring the original intent of the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund. He

stated there are often shortfalls in municipal funding such as PILOT, ECS, MRSA, and LOCIP. This had led local government to be faced with two options of either reducing services or increasing property taxes. This initiative would be an important step forward to having stable and predictable municipal funding.

Jennifer Mahr, First Selectwoman, Town of Middlebury- Selectwoman Mahr spoke on the behalf of the Town of Middlebury in which she believes that The Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund should revert back to its intended purpose to benefit all Connecticut towns. She spoke on how municipalities receiving additional non-residential property tax revenue will contribute to the Governor's commitment to making Connecticut more affordable.

Jill Rusk, Mayor, City of Groton- Mayor Rusk supported of the allocation of the MMPF to Connecticut local towns and cities, along her colleagues from the SECOG region. She highlighted that the proposed allocation of about \$54 million was far below the \$139 million collected, departing from the fund's original purpose. They also argued that restoring full funding would provide property tax relief and help offset unfunded mandates, and urged legislation to distribute 100% of revenues to municipalities, including eligible political subdivisions.

John Burt, Town Manager, Town of Groton- Mr. Burt supported this bill in the restoration of the MMPF to its original purpose of fully funding municipalities. He explained that the Fund was created in 1994 to distribute casino-generated revenue to towns, especially those impacted by Tribal Nation casino operations, but over time the State had diverted these funds to address budget deficits. While the State currently receives about \$139 million annually, only about \$54 million is proposed to be distributed, which is less than half of the revenue. He strongly urged the allocation of the folds 100% to municipalities to provide property tax relief and help offset the burden of unfunded state mandates.

Juliette Parker, Mayor, Town of Groton- Mayor Parker supported SB 388 as a way to restore the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund to its original purpose of fully funding municipalities. They argued that the state had diverted a large portion of casino-generated revenue away from towns, reducing distributions despite increasing total revenue. They emphasized that SB 388 would help provide property tax relief and support municipalities facing growing financial burdens from state mandates.

Kathleen Blonski, Town Manager, Town of Farmington- Ms. Blonski supported this bill on the behalf of the town of Farmington in increasing funds from \$54 million to \$152 million. Farmington had been excluded in receiving monies and as costs continue to rise, the Fund will provide support in maintaining service without the burden on local taxpayers. Additionally, the town supported the limitations reductions in funds unless in emergencies and the notification of the General Assembly of the reduction. The speaker is in support of the Mashantucket Pequot- Mohegan Fund to its original purpose and to provide financial assistance to cities and towns.

Kathleen Smith, First Selectman, Town of Lebanon- Selectwoman Kathleen Smith submitted testimony in support alongside with her colleagues from the SECOG region. The origin of the MMPF was intended to provide revenue to towns and cities impacted by casino operations. Overtime, the funds have diverted from the original intent in which she pushed for the 100% of the funds be allocated to municipalities rather than other purposes.

Kathleen Southard, Town Council, Montville- Ms. Southard submitted testimony on the behalf of the Montville Town Council which increases the funding in the Mashantucket Pequot- Mohegan Fund from \$54 million to \$152 million. She focused on how Montville is directly impacted due to sharing a border with a casino. At times, Montville first responders have dealt with incidents

Lenny Bunnell, Mayor, Town of Montville- Mayor Bunnell supported this bill among his colleagues in the SECOG region. He briefly explained the background of the Fund's original intent in providing the casino operations revenues to impacted towns and cities. However, in recent years, the funds have been allocated to address state budget deficits. Currently, municipalities are only receiving less than half of the revenue received. The speaker strongly urged this bill to pass as it will restore the full 100% of revenues back to the Fund supporting municipals in addressing property tax relief.

Mary Calorio, Regional Town Administrator- Mr. Calorio supported this bill on the behalf of Canterbury, Chaplin, and Pomfret. She explained that increase in the MMPF from \$54 million to \$152 million will offset the regressive local property tax and provide non- property tax revenue to towns and cities. Throughout time, the funds have been inconsistent, with the state using the funds to address budget deficits. She supported provisions preventing funds to be swept unless declared in an agency from the Governor. She strongly encouraged that the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund be restored to its original intent.

Michael Mkauch, First Selectman, Town of Willington- Selectman Mkauch supported this bill in increasing the amount of funding distributed from the Mashantucket Pequot- Mohegan fund. In doing so, this would increase the funding from \$54 million to \$152 million and support the pressure of local property taxation and the needed non-property tax revenue. Due to the significant decrease in funding over time, municipalities like Willington have seen reduced financial support, making it more difficult to offset rising costs associated with state mandates such as education, specifical education services, and automobile taxes. Restoring this funding would return the program to its original purpose of directly supporting local governments and stabilizing municipal budgets. He stated that Willington supports the provisions of the prohibition of money removed unless the Governor declares an emergency and the notification of General Assembly.

Mona McKim, Director of Finance & Operations, Town of Rocky Hill- Ms. McKim supported this bill on the behalf of Rocky Hill. They pushed for the increase of funds increasing the Mashantucket Pequot- Mohegan fund from \$54 million to \$152 million. The increase of these funds will help relieve the pressure of regressive local property tax. They also stated that throughout the years, Rocky Hill funds have been reduced by 50% leading to increase property taxes for residents and reductions in critical services including education and public safety. Originally, the Fund created in 1994 was started to help towns and cities with the impacts of casino operations. Throughout the years, the purpose had decreased and become inconsistent in which had been used to address budget deficits. They also supported the language regarding the restriction of the reductions in funds unless the Governor declares and emergency and the notification of the General Assembly.

Nicholas Sabilia, Town Councilor, Montville CT- Mr. Sabilia supported this bill in requiring the State in distributing all funds from the Tribal Nations to Connecticut's towns and cities, specifically focusing on Montville.

Nick D Addario, Selectman, Town of Easton- Selectman Addario supported this bill in the restoration of the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund in its original purpose. He explained that the Fund was started so all Connecticut towns could benefit from the state tribal casino revenues. However, the distribution formula had changed where it excludes towns including Easton which no longer receives any funding. Easton, a small town with a limited commercial tax base relies on residential taxes to fund essential services. He stated that restoration of the fund will provide equitable treatment for towns relive pressure on local taxpayers, recognition that all towns contribute to the state's economic ecosystem and ensure that all municipalities benefit from the casino generated revenue. He strongly encouraged the bill to restore fairness and for the Fund to revert back to its original intent.

Paul Zulpa, First Selectman, Town of Woodbury- Selectman Zulpa stated that the proposed changes would restore the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund to its original purpose of providing distributions to all municipalities. He noted that the bill had significant fiscal implications for towns across the state and emphasized that restoring full funding would allow for a more equitable distribution of resources to municipalities, including Woodbury. He also indicated that the town supports the full restoration of the grant to ensure fair and consistent funding.

Peggy Lyons, First Selectwoman, Town of Madison- Selectwoman Lyons supported this bill on the behalf of Madison. The Mashantucket Pequot- Mohegan fund had been decreased from \$152 million to \$54 million, which the Town of Madison had been excluded since 2019. Resources received from The Fund is used to provide non-property tax revenues to municipalities as well as reducing the pressure on local property tax. The monies throughout the years have been inconsistent and used to address state budget deficits. They supported the provisions regarding the limitations of funds being reduced unless the Governor declares an emergency.

Sandra Gauthier, First Selectwoman, Town of Preston- Selectwoman Gauthier supported this bill along with their fellow colleagues from the SECOG region. They stated that The Fund started in 1994 to provide revenue to 169 towns and cities, especially those impacted by casino operations. The state had derived from the original goal of The Fund to tackle state budget deficits. She encouraged that the State return back to the original goal of the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund by allocating 100% of the funds to local towns and cities. These funds will benefit Connecticut residents by alleviating property taxes as well the burden of unfunded state mandates.

Shari Cantor, Mayor, Town of West Hartford- Mayor Cantor supported this bill increasing the funds from \$54 to \$152 million. She highlighted the recent challenges in special education costs, rising healthcare expenses, transportation, and workforce challenges in public work. As a result to these obstacles, towns and cities are forced to either cut services or raise taxes resulting to higher housing costs. She emphasized that increased state investment would help stabilize local budgets, maintain essential services, and support strong communities across Connecticut.

Susan Spang, First Selectwoman, Town of Salem – Selectwoman Spang indicated that she joins other officials from the SECOG region in advocating for increased funding to municipalities. She noted that while the state currently receives approximately \$139 million annually in slot revenue from the Tribal Nations, the Governor’s proposed budget would distribute only about \$54 million to municipalities. She emphasized that this represents a significant departure from the fund’s original intent, noting that in its inaugural year approximately \$88 million was collected and fully distributed to towns. She expressed concern that the state had increasingly redirected these revenues to address budget deficits, reducing the amount provided to municipalities. She stated that resorting full allocation of these funds would provide needed property tax relief and help municipalities address the financial impact of unfunded state mandates.

Thomas DeVivo, Mayor, Town of Windham – Mayor DeVivo supported the bill alongside with fellow colleges from the SECOG region. He stated that overtime, the state had used the funds for state budget deficits. Currently the state receives approximately \$139 million in slot revenue, in which municipalities recently less than half of the revenues received. He strongly urged the state to return back to the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund original purpose of allocating 100% of revenues to local to towns and cities. These funds are essential to provide property tax relief for Windham residents, especially as inflation continues to strain residents’ ability to afford and support municipal services.

Tina Falck, First Selectman, Town of Griswold – Selectman Falck supported the bill, along with her fellow colleagues from the SECOG region. She explained that the origin of the Fund was to support all 169 towns and cities, particularly those most impacted by casino operations. The State had diverted funds to cover budget deficits, thereby reducing municipal support. While the State now received approximately \$139 million annually, less than half was distributed to towns. She urged that 100% of the funds be allocated back to the Fund, redirecting them to their original purpose to providing tax relief to Connecticut residents and addressing unfunded State mandates imposed on local government.

William Monti, Vice Chair of Grants Committee, Woodbury CT – Mr. Monti supported the bill and argued that the state had unfairly reduced and inconsistently distributed Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund grants since 2019. He criticized state leaders for withholding funding from some municipalities, using unclear or inconsistent criteria, and favoring certain towns with additional funds. He claimed that the fund generates sufficient revenue to restore and expand municipal aid, and that SB 388 would help correct inequities, reduce property tax burdens, and return the program to its original purpose of fairly supporting all municipalities.

Nancy Scallon- Ms. Scallon supported this bill on the behalf of Middlebury to increase the funding under the Mashantucket Pequot Mohegan Fund from \$54 million to \$152 million. Middlebury had been deprived of all funds in recent years, leading to residents not receiving property tax relief. She urges for the Fund to be restored in its original intent in providing assistance for local towns and cities.

Adam Ockman- Mr. Ockman submitted testimony in support of SB 388 as a way to increase funding from the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund to help reduce reliance on regressive property taxes. They argued that higher state-distributed revenue, sourced from casino fund would provide more equitable support to municipalities and help address

affordability issues for working and middle-class families. While noting that SB 388 offered indirect relief, he emphasized it as an important step in easing financial pressure on local budgets and taxpayers.

Deborah Palladino- Ms. Palladino supported the increased funding from the Mashantucket Pequot-Mohegan Fund from \$54 million to \$152 million to provide municipalities with needed non-property tax revenue and reduce reliance on regressive property taxes. The testimony highlighted that Middlebury's funding was eliminated entirely and criticizes the state for inconsistent funding and diverting funds in the past. She argued that SB 388 would restore the fund's original purpose of supporting towns, especially given the state's current budget surplus.

Elliott Nowak- Mr. Nowak supported the bill to increase the amount of funding distributed under the Mashantucket Pequot- Mohegan fund from \$54 million to \$152 million. The increase from this Fund will relieve the pressures on regressive local property tax and provide non- property tax revenue to towns and cities. Over the past years, funding had been inconsistent and been used to offset budget deficits for the state. The number of monies appropriated to towns and cities had been the lowest ever and it is time to restore the funds back to its original purpose.

Ereida Spaho- Ms. Spaho supported the bill that increasing funding from \$54 million to \$152 million would provide needed non-property tax revenue and help reduce pressure on local property taxes. She noted that Middlebury's share of the fund was previously eliminated, which limited residents' access to property tax relief. Spaho stated that restoring full allocation of these funds will provide relief to towns and cities.

Forest, Love- Mr. Love supported this bill, stating that passing SB 388 is in the best interest of Connecticut municipalities, taxpayers, and schools, and urges its prompt approval.

Francis Barton- Mr. Barton supported the bill to increase of funds from \$54 million to \$152 million. The increase in funds will provide support in municipalities relief in non-property tax revenue as well as reducing the pressures in regressive local property taxes. Throughout the years, the funding had been inconsistent and had been used by the state to offset budget deficits. They stated that the monies allocated to towns and cities had been the lowest since the fund was created in 1994. They strongly urged the restoration of the Mashantucket Pequot- Mohegan fund in its original purpose in providing financial assistance to towns and need of state revenue aid.

Jonathan Hertz- Mr. Hertz submitted testimony on behalf of the Town of Middlebury in support of the bill, increasing the Mashantucket Pequot-Mohegan Fund from \$54 million to \$152 million. They explained that the increase would provide needed non-property tax revenue and reduce pressure on local property taxes, noting that Middlebury currently receives no funding from the program. They highlighted that funding had been inconsistent and often diverted to cover state budget deficits, leaving current allocations at their lowest since 1994. They strongly supported the restoration of the Fund to its original purpose of providing financial assistance to municipalities.

Kate Southard- Ms. Southard supported SB 388 which increases the funds from \$54 million to \$152 million. The increase of funds will help municipalities with non-property tax revenue and

reduce pressure on regressive local property taxes. She specifically focused on Montville which directly had an impact with casino operations in which the town frequently provides public safety resources when needed. These calls add on additional responsibility to local departments which is supported by the taxpayers of Montville. She is in support of the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund in returning to its original intent.

Melanie Peters- Ms. Peters supported SB 388 as a way to increase funding from the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund, providing municipalities with needed non-property tax revenue and reducing reliance on regressive property taxes. It highlighted that Middlebury lost all funding and criticizes the state for inconsistent distributions and diverting funds. They argued that, given current state surpluses, SB 388 is necessary to restore funding and support local governments.

ShawnaLee Kwashnak, Middlebury CT- Ms. Kwashnak supported this bill to increase the monies for the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund from \$54 million to \$152 million. The increase in funds will provide municipalities non- property tax revenue and reduce the pressure of local property tax. Specifically, Middlebury had been excluded depriving Middlebury residents from the benefits. Throughout the years, funds have been diminished and it is at the lowest since 1994. She is in strong support of The Fund providing towns and cities the financial assistance it needs.

Susan Salcito- Ms. Salcito supported this bill on the behalf of Middlebury in increasing the Mashantucket Pequot Mohegan fund from \$54 million to \$152 million. The increase of funds will result in the pressures of regressive local property tax and provide non-property tax revenue. Specifically, Middlebury had been zeroed out in receiving the funds. Overtime, the funding had been inconsistent and the state utilizing the funds to offset budget deficits. She urged for the Fund to go back in its original intent in providing financial assistance to towns and cities.

Valerie Lofland – Ms. Lofland testified in support of SB 388, stating that increasing the monies allocated to the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund would provide relief to municipalities and reduce pressure on local property tax. She noted that Middlebury was not receiving any of the benefits of the Fund. Historically, the Fund was established to provide needed revenues to towns and cities; however, this support had been inconsistent over time. She strongly supported restoring the Fund to its intended purpose of providing financial assistance to municipalities.

Anonymous 208- Anonymous supported casino generated revenues back into towns specifically 1.54 million.

Anonymous 246- Anonymous supported the bill increasing the amount in Mashantucket Pequot- Mohegan fund to \$152 million from \$54 million. The increase in this funding provide municipalities relief in non-property tax revenue as well as reducing the pressures in regressive local property taxes. They explained Middlebury was severely impacted in receiving zero funds depriving residents in receiving property tax relief.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Ernestine Holloway, Reverend – Reverend Holloway testified in opposition to the bill, expressing that taxpayer funds should not be directed toward casinos and should instead be allocated to religious organizations and community-based ministries.

Reported by: Erica Wong

Date: 4/8/2026