

We therefore welcome the initiative that seeks to progress Sports Betting in a format that reduces the attraction of the illegal market; provides competitive entertainment for consumers; includes all existing State gaming operators; and ultimately provides incremental revenue for the State.

In fact, this is the precise model the most successful state, New Jersey, has implemented.

We recognize the noble ambition to negotiate a comprehensive solution covering all gaming initiatives. However, the significant separate interests makes that a monumental task.

We therefore applaud a proposal that separates the simpler Sports Betting opportunity from the myriad other gaming issues under consideration.

Clearly, we do not agree with the argument that the Tribal Compacts grant exclusivity to anyone.

We believe, there is a simple solution:

Provide the same in venue and online Sports Betting license to existing Connecticut gaming operators, tax appropriately, and provide consumer protections.

- The State benefits from new sources of revenue with established, regulated licensees, and with protections for consumers and a reduction in illegal gambling activity.
- Consumers can participate in regulated legal Sports betting - This is key to a healthy fixed odds Sports betting marketplace.
- With an equitable distribution of licenses to all four current license holders, it is difficult to envision a legally qualified challenge from other parties.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to address the committee today.

We welcome the opportunity to answer any questions the committee may have.

Ted Taylor, President
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February 11, 2020

**Informational Hearing Written Testimony of
Ted Taylor, President of Sportech Venues, Inc.**

Co-Chairmen Bradley and Verrengia and distinguished Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee; thank you for inviting us to this informational hearing.

I am Ted Taylor, President of Sportech Venues, and with me today are Richard McGuire, CEO of Sportech PLC, our parent company, and Rich Pingel, our Chief Legal Officer. We are all based at Sportech's North American headquarters in New Haven.

Many of you are aware of our established licensed gaming business across Connecticut, but a brief reminder:

Betting is what we do in Connecticut.

We are the only gaming operator licensed to take bets on approved sporting events, typically racing and the sport of Jai Alai across the State. We operate from 14 Venues and are able to expand to 24.

It's important to note that we are also the **only operator** in the State of Connecticut currently licensed to take online bets on these approved events.

For nearly 30 years, we have been licensed here in Connecticut, we provide more than 350 jobs across the State, we have invested millions of dollars in recent years, and we have the infrastructure and expertise to move sports betting forward.

Sports Betting is happening right now in this State. All guests here today will acknowledge the illegal marketplace has grown and mutually also recognize the significant challenges to our Connecticut interests from neighboring states that have adopted Sports Betting.

To compete against the illegal market and provide true consumer choice the licensing should include:

1. In Venue,
2. Online, and
3. In-play action.

Without all three, none of us can compete on a level playing field.