



Mashantucket Pequot
Tribal Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, DECEMBER 9, 2020

Contact: Andrew Doba | doba@tidalmediastategy.com | (203) 850-7400

MOHEGAN AND MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT TRIBAL LEADERS RELEASE STATEMENT ON TRIBAL WINDS CASINO IN EAST WINDSOR

Chairmen Cite Need to Focus on Existing Facilities as Pandemic Continues to Impact Businesses; Will Look to Renew Development Once Market Conditions Improve

(EAST WINDSOR, CT) – Following a meeting with the state and local officials representing East Windsor, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation (MTPN) and the Mohegan Tribe today released a joint statement on the future of Tribal Winds Casino in East Windsor:

“The past seven months have presented our organizations with unprecedented challenges, and for the foreseeable future, we need to focus our efforts on the successful operation of our existing facilities. Every day brings new challenges and we’re doing our best to navigate these waters because we know how important our businesses are to the surrounding communities, our employees and the state as a whole. The best thing we can do right now for each of those stakeholders is to focus foremost on the success of Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods.

“We’ve been through so many ups and downs when it comes to the Tribal Winds project. There have been many moments where it was clear the easiest path would be to just walk away. And while there’s no way we could have accounted for this latest delay, we still believe Tribal Winds is a viable project that will come to fruition once markets improve and we’ve taken concrete steps toward restoring normal business operations.

“We want to thank State Senator Saud Anwar, Representatives Hall and Foster, and First Selectman Bowsza for their understanding, patience and continued desire to work together.”

The Tribes took the historic step of closing both of their facilities on March 18th. Since reopening, both Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun have operated at 25% capacity, a fact that has

had serious implications for existing employees. The Tribes have sent more than \$8 billion in revenue to the state since opening their facilities in the 1990s, money that's supported public programs in every city and town in Connecticut.

"I want to thank the Chairmen for being forthright and honest at every step of this project," said State Senator Saud Anwar. "While the cause of this recent delay was beyond their control, their clear desire to move forward when conditions improve is evident. I remain optimistic and look forward to a long partnership with the tribes in the years to come."

I wanted to thank the tribes for keeping us well-informed as we try to navigate through this very difficult business climate," said State Representative Carol Hall. "I am very disappointed that COVID has delayed the progress of this project but unfortunately, we understand that there are many devastated businesses and that it is looking no different for the tribes at this point. I have complete confidence that once we get through this pandemic this project will move forward. We have been assured by the tribes that this is the number one project on their radar once they can get their home base operations in good stead."

"While I've yet to be sworn in, I know from talking with so many people in my community that East Windsor is eager for economic development opportunities," said State Representative-elect Jaime Foster. "I appreciate the chance to talk to the Chairmen and learn about this project and where it stands currently. I look forward to being an advocate for endeavors that bring jobs and economic benefits to my district."

"The Town of East Windsor has been working to lay the groundwork for meaningful economic development in our community, both in Planning and Zoning and on the Board of Selectmen," said First Selectman Jason E. Bowsza. "We want this project to succeed and we respect the long view approach the tribes must take to make sure all the elements of success are in place before making a major investment. I want to thank the Chairmen for their candor as they work through the ramifications of the pandemic."

###