

CASINO FACT SHEET

Effects of a Proposed Middleboro Casino on Surrounding Communities

A Middleboro Casino is not a 'done deal' as you may have heard.

CRIME

Five years after a casino opens the host and surrounding communities can expect:

- Robbery up 136%
- Aggravated assault up 91%
- Auto Theft up 78%
- Burglary up 50%
- Larceny up 38%
- Rape up 21%
- Murder up 12%
- Increases in DUI and other traffic violations.

ENVIRONMENT

- Endangered/threatened species exist on proposed casino site.
- The proposed casino site encompasses hundreds of acres of wetland.
- Daily use of up to 1.5 million gallons of water from already stressed Taunton River basin.
- Wells already going dry in Middleboro.
- Pollution from "new city" of 50,000 + people: sewage, garbage, air and light

SCHOOLS

- Due to 95% employment in our region, labor will need to be imported, adding more children to our already overburdened school systems
- Language specialists may be needed. Middleboro can expect some funding for this but not the surrounding communities.

QUALITY OF LIFE

- A predicted 40+ story casino tower will block out the night sky to residents in several towns, and be visible from a great distance & block the night sky.
- Traffic congestion will cause longer commutes.
- We will lose the 'rural character' of our area.
- Increased crime and social problems for our area.
- The issue of 'hot bunking' is likely to become a problem in our communities

SOCIAL ISSUES

- Before Foxwoods, CT had one gambling addiction treatment center. Now it has 17. Taxpayers NOT the Tribe will pay for these.
- Middleboro did NOT consider social impacts in their brief casino impact analysis.
- According to the MA Council of Compulsive Gambling, gambling is a public health risk which increases child abuse, neglect and abandonment, spousal abuse, bankruptcy, job loss, poverty, underage gambling, alcohol and other drug problems, depression, suicide, divorce, prostitution, theft, drug trafficking and homicide.
- Casino employees have higher rates of problem gambling than non-casino employees.
- Teenagers have a problem gambling rate of 10%-17%, a rate 2 to 3 times higher than the general population. The legal age for casino gambling is 21 but in areas with easy access to a casino 59.8% of 18 year olds, 72.8% of 19 years olds and 86.1% of 20 year olds admitted they'd gambled at least once in a casino. For college students over 21, the percentage rose to 92.5%.

TAXES

- Local business loss will reduce associated sales, employment and property tax contributions
- CT, NJ, PA and RI all have casino gambling and still pay higher taxes.
- Gambling revenues uncertain.
- Taxpayers will pay for increased emergency services, infrastructure, strain on schools and social services.
- Massachusetts's largest cities, not our small towns will get the largest share of disbursed casino revenue collected by the state while we get the most negative impacts. This is why we should oppose the casino and not simply petition to 'mitigate potential impacts.'
- Increase in so many low-income jobs will cause increase in need for low income housing in surrounding towns.

TRAFFIC

- Foxwoods is the worlds largest casino. The proposed Middleboro casino is projected to be larger. However, the South Shore of Massachusetts is already more populated and congested than the area around the two Connecticut casinos.
- 50+000 visitors projected every day. Since casinos are always expanding, this can be expected to grow.
- 10,000-15,000 casino employees will create additional traffic.
- Suppliers and vendors to the casino will add tractor trailer traffic to local roads and highways at all hours.
- Tour busses will find routes down local roads.
- Increased traffic will create substantial need for road repair and maintenance.
- Tribe will NOT be funding the building of road infrastructure – that will be provided by taxpayers.
- Free drinks at casino, served 24/7 will increase number of drunken drivers on local roads including daytime hours when children wait for busses or ride their bikes.
- Tribe wants to build Middleboro Rotary 'flyover' – yet similar Bourne Bridge flyover still backed up.
- Since most casino patrons come from the towns around the casino, it is expected that they will use smaller local roads as short cuts.

LOCAL BUSINESS

- Casino patrons stay mainly at casino and rarely patronize local business.
- Our region currently enjoys a 95% employment rate. A mega casino will require 10,000-15,000 mostly low skilled employees further depleting current employment resources.
- Area restaurant and entertainment venues suffer competition due to availability of free drinks at casino.
- Local businesses suffer because casinos soak up 80% of their business from within a 35- 50 mile radius.

Impacts on the surrounding communities must be taken into consideration by the secretary of the Department of the Interior before putting the land into trust

If you have concerns, the time is NOW to voice them.

Call, write or e-mail your local Board of Selectman, and State Representatives:

Educate your friends and neighbors.

Visit casinofacts.org

Put a sign on your lawn.

Write an editorial

Donate!