

# CAN MILFORD REALLY COUNT ON FOXWOODS?

## **1. Foxwoods has a track record of failure.**

Foxwoods won casino licenses in Philadelphia, Kansas, California, and St. Croix, but never laid one brick.

## **2. Foxwoods reneged on its financial obligations.**

Foxwoods recently restructured its debt by negotiating a deal to avoid paying back \$550 million of what they owed. One creditor fought the deal, but settled for one fourth of the millions owed.

## **3. Foxwoods is suffering financially.**

Foxwoods is losing customers and revenue to newer casinos in New York and Rhode Island. Gambling revenue has dropped the last six years in a row. Because customers from Massachusetts and Rhode Island currently make up almost half of the Foxwoods CT customer base, the opening of casinos in Massachusetts significantly threatens the financial future of Foxwoods.

## **4. Our host community agreement with Foxwoods is WEAK.**

Milford's agreement does not include penalties for nonperformance. The Suffolk Downs agreement forces the developer to pay significant daily penalties, as much as \$88,000 a day, for construction and scheduled payment delays.

## **5. Foxwoods treats employees unfairly.**

In 2007 dealers at Foxwoods decided that working conditions had deteriorated to the point that they needed to join a union, thus becoming one of the first employee groups to ever organize at a tribal casino. Critical issues the employees were struggling with included the shrinking of their health benefits and the management's reduction of their tips. Foxwoods petitioned the National Labor Review Board to stop dealers from organizing and holding elections, but the Labor Board allowed the elections to move forward. The tension between Foxwoods management and employees continues. Most recently Foxwoods refused to negotiate a new contract with employees, forcing them to work without a contract for two years. ▶▶▶

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## **6. Foxwoods is suing its host community in Connecticut.**

The Connecticut casinos are not obligated to pay taxes or mitigation amounts to their host communities, although the towns must provide municipal services and public education. The town of Montville successfully negotiated payments from Mohegan Sun to help cover the costs of town-provided services, but Foxwoods has refused to negotiate any similar payments to the town of Ledyard.

To try to make up for the financial drain caused by Foxwoods, Ledyard levied a tax on the vendors that supply Foxwoods' slot machines. Concerned that such a tax would set an unwelcome precedent, Foxwoods pressured the vendors to stop paying the tax, even though Foxwoods itself is not required to pay one dime.

In July 2008 Ledyard filed suit in Connecticut Superior Court to collect the unpaid taxes. After years of court delays, Ledyard won their case, but Foxwoods appealed, once again blocking the town from collecting tax revenue. The extended legal battle has cost the town of Ledyard over \$1 million so far.

## **7. WOULD FOXWOODS MAKE A GOOD BUSINESS PARTNER FOR MILFORD?**

Foxwoods has failed to open casinos outside of Connecticut, despite having been granted licenses in four other locations. *Will Foxwoods really follow through here in Milford?*

Foxwoods' revenue started falling six years ago. Two years later they were unable to pay their creditors, prompting them to "restructure" their debt and force their creditors to give up millions of dollars. Foxwoods continues to lose money each month. *Can Milford count on Foxwoods to keep its financial promises?*

Our host community agreement with Foxwoods does not include penalty payments. Foxwoods' ongoing legal actions against its Connecticut host community have cost the tax payers over one million dollars. *If Foxwoods delays construction or fails to make a payment to Milford, how much time and money will it cost us in court proceedings and appeals to enforce the contract?*

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