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EDITORIAL

EH casino makes most sense

We don't believe a third Connecticut casino will be an answer to Connecticut's budget crisis, but if a new gambling hall is to be built in the state, it should be in East Hartford.

A casino at the former Showcase Cinemas property, just off the town's Silver Lane business corridor, makes the most sense to curtail gamblers from going to the MGM Springfield casino, which is currently under construction.

East Hartford's central location and access to Connecticut's major highways, particularly those that guide travelers to Springfield, makes the town a natural choice. But it's also the location that could leverage the most economic impact. The gaming facility, for example, would draw more traffic to support the proposed Outlet Shoppes at Rentschler Field, a long-delayed project that could revive a once-vibrant commercial strip that Pratt & Whitney and Rentschler Field now anchor.

In addition, vibrant East Hartford retail and gaming destinations would have a positive spillover effect on the Capital City, drawing more patrons to fill Hartford's bars and

restaurants as well as sporting venues, including the new Dunkin' Donuts stadium and the XL Center.

Other towns interested in a casino, including East Windsor, could potentially make good gaming destinations. But they lack the central location and nexus to the Capital City that East Hartford offers.

Of course issues like increased traffic and crime are a concern, but East Hartford's potential offers the most upside.