



Union says Foxwoods coerced witnesses in labor dispute

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HARTFORD, Conn. - A union seeking to represent dealers at Foxwoods Resort Casino filed a complaint Friday with the National Labor Relations Board alleging that the casino forced a dealer to testify on behalf of management at a federal labor hearing.

The United Auto Workers wants the NLRB to investigate what it calls management coercion of witnesses at a recent labor board hearing on the union vote.

The union said Foxwoods interrogated employees regarding testimony they were going to present at the hearing.

The casino owners, the Mashantucket Pequots, filed complaints with the labor board after dealers voted 1,289 to 852 in favor of a union.

The tribe claimed the UAW intimidated workers as it sought to unionize them. The union has denied those claims.

The union alleges that one of the dealers, who testified for management, stated under oath that when she reported to work that day, it was marked in her schedule that she had to go to Hartford. According to the union, the dealer testified that a bus, carrying about 10 dealers and a pit manager, picked her up at Foxwoods and drove her to the hearing.

Tribal spokesman Arthur Henick called the complaint a desperate attempt by the union to detract attention from its own improper conduct. He said the tribe is confident the allegations against Foxwoods have no merit.

A ruling on Foxwoods' complaints to the labor board is expected in early March.