COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
GAMING CONTROL BOARD

IN RE: CATEGORY 4 LICENSE FOR
MOUNTAINVIEW-PENN NATIONAL BERKS

PUBLIC INPUT HEARING

BEFORE: Linda S. Lloyd, Presiding Officer
T. Mark Mustio, Commissioner
Kathy M. Manderino, Commissioner
Dante Santoni, Jr., Commissioner
Merritt C. Reitzel, Commissioner

HEARING: Monday, March 4, 2019
4:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Caernarvon Township Social Hall
3307 Main Street
Morgantown, PA 19543

Reporter: Joshua Lee Hess

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APPEARANCES

PENN NATIONAL GAMING:
Adrian King, Esquire, Ballard Spahr, LLP
John Finamore, Senior Vice President of Regional
Operations, Penn National.
Chris Rogers, Senior Vice President for Corporate
Development
Dan Ihm, Vice President and General Manager, Hollywood
Casino at Penn National Race Course
Jeff Morris, Penn National
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PRESIDING OFFICER: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Linda Lloyd. I'm the Presiding Officer assigned to conduct the public input hearing addressing the Category 4 casino proposed by Mount Airy Thoroughbred Racing Association, doing business as Hollywood Casino, to be located in Caernarvon Township.

Before I begin, if we could please turn off or to vibrate, all of our cell phones and other electronic devices. I would like to remind everyone that this proceeding is being recorded today by our court reporter, who is over here to my far left. And this is also being recorded on video and simultaneously streamed live to the Board's website. The video will be put up on the Board's website for the world's viewing pleasure after it is over.

As the Presiding Officer, I call this hearing to order. The date is Monday, March 4th, 2019. The time is 4:02 p.m., and the location is the Caernarvon Township Social Hall located at 3307 Main Street in Morgantown, Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Racehorse Development
and Gaming Act as amended at Section 1305.1 created a new category of slot machine licenses, referred to as Category 4 Licenses. On April 4th, 2018, Mountainview Thoroughbred Racing Association won a Category 4 License auction with the winning bid of $7,000,503 - $7,500,003 giving it the opportunity to propose and build a facility located within a 50-mile radius of the longitude and latitude coordinates provided with its winning bid.

Caernarvon Township falls within that proposed radius. This public input hearing is being held by the Board pursuant to the mandate found in Section 1202(b)(1) of the Gaming Act that requires a public hearing be held in the municipality where the licensed facility is proposed to be located prior to the Board's consideration of a slot machine license application.

The purpose of this hearing is to provide the applicant the opportunity to present its plans for a Category 4 Casino to the Board and the public and to provide the public with an opportunity to express their thoughts and share their concerns about the proposed project with the Board. This public hearing is advertised on the Board's website, announced at Board meetings and advertised in local
newspapers.

Four Board members are present today for the hearing. Starting from my far left is Commissioner Merritt Reitzel, Commissioner Dante Santoni, and to my right, Commissioner Kathy Manderino, and our newest member, who was sworn in this morning, Commissioner Mark Mustio.

The Board's speakers are as follows today. Penn National will have about 45 minutes to make its presentation of the proposed project. After that, we will hear from those who have registered to speak today. All registered speakers will have five minutes each to speak and each speaker should begin their remarks by stating and spelling their name.

This is an official administrative hearing. So, please treat this as if you were attending a court proceeding. All witnesses speak loudly and clearly and into the microphone so that the court reporter and those in the audience can hear what you have to say.

So, let's begin by having all witnesses from Penn National who will testify today, if you could please stand and raise your right hand to be sworn.
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(WHEREUPON, WITNESSES SWORN EN MASSE)

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PRESIDING OFFICER: And let's begin.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Madam Chair, before we begin, may I just ask one question for clarification?

PRESIDING OFFICER: Of procedure?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: It has to do with the time allotment.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Yes.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: In previous casino hearings, the community groups were allotted, I believe, ten minutes to speak. I believe that the speakers on both sides of the party may have prepared to speak that way. Is it possible for them to have that additional allotment? I do understand our list is long.

PRESIDING OFFICER: The list is very long and the Board Chair has declared five minutes per speaker for these hearings. So, if you have other comments that you would like to add, you can mail them to the Board in a letter form.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you very much for that clarification that we can -.
PRESIDING OFFICER: Penn National?

MR. KING: Good afternoon, members of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, Hearing Officer Lloyd. My name is Adrian King from the Ballard Spahr firm, here today on behalf of Penn National Gaming, and the primary location sponsoring this satellite location, which is Mountainview Thoroughbred Racing Association. I'm going to make brief introductions of our team and then simply turn it over to them.

So, sitting to my right is John Finamore, he's the Senior Vice President of Regional Operations for Penn National. Sitting to his right is Chris Rogers, Senior Vice President for Corporate Development, and to his right is Mr. Dan Ihm, Vice President and General Manager of Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course in Grantville, Pennsylvania.

We will attempt to be as concise as we can and efficient with our presentation. With that, I'll turn it over to John.

MR. FINAMORE: Thank you.

Good afternoon, Commissioners and Staff of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board.

Vice President Regional Operations for Penn National Gaming.

I think by now you all know the story of Penn National, but if I can just spend a few minutes on it. Started, as you know, 1972 as a single racetrack property outside of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and we are the only publically-traded gaming company headquartered in Pennsylvania. Through steady and - and very disciplined growth over the years, we have grown this company from this humble beginning into what is today actually a company with 41 properties. When we close on a transaction that we're working on for a casino in Detroit, we'll be at 42 properties and the company is now on the cusp of being a fortune 500 company. It's been a remarkable growth story. As you see, $5 billion in annual revenues and 30,000 plus employees throughout - throughout the country.

I'm going to try to show you a brief video on the company if I can get this to advance.

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(WHEREUPON, VIDEO WAS PLAYED)

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MR. FINAMORE: Once again, Berks County is our home. I think we are very proud of
the growth that we talked about, but we're also very
proud of the fact that we've called Berks County
home for over 45 years. It's also important to note
that we are a very active member in the community,
not only in the business community in Berks County,
but also in the philanthropic communities in - in
the county.

In addition to the millions of dollars
that we've contributed to the myriad of
organizations such as these that you see here, our
employees are also deeply engaged in worthwhile
causes in the community.

With me today are a number of
executives who reside in Berks County who are active
in various charities and organizations. We've
served on the boards of directors for a number of
organizations, including the YMCA, Boys and Girls
Club, Greater Berks Food Bank and Mary's Shelter,
where my colleague, Jeff Morris, who's behind me to
my left, is currently serving as the president.
Together with these charities, we are very committed
to helping Berks County, our home, continue to grow
and improve for all residents and look forward to
the opportunity to extend our outreach in years to
come.
I'm trying to show you our core values. Here we go. Okay. So, these are the core values by which we run our business. We strive to prove an unparalleled guest experience. Work happy. That is our mantra very much for our team members at the properties. We have been selected as the employer of choice. We've won numerous awards. There's a couple of them up there. We have a commitment to diversity. We strive to have our employee population, our team member population, reflect the diversity of the communities in which we operate. We talked a little bit about the commitment to community and the charitable organizations and work that we do. And we are very committed to responsible gaming. We follow the American Gaming Association's standards on responsible gaming. And we take that very seriously, as you know.

A little bit about the property down the road. I showed you a photo of it from the early '70s. Here's a more current look of Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course. This property cost - we've invested $400 million in the property, opened in 2008, as you know. Currently we have 907 team members, our slot count at 2,002 and tables at
75. I think it's a remarkable stat that since we've opened the property has paid $1.6 billion in taxes and fees to the State and communities. $156 million the local - is the local share assessment. $338 million in salaries, wages and benefits to our team members. And $13 million paid annually in local and state vendor spend.

Again, just to highlight some our community involvement, we talked a little bit about that a moment ago. $3.75 million for IBD Research at the Milton Hershey Medical Center. That has been one of our main charities that we've worked with. But we've also donated or raised $1.3 million to local and regional charities and over $100,000 to the local Relay for Life. In fact, in 2018, the company as a whole raised $427,000 for Relay for Life and since 2015, the company has raised almost $1.2 million.

In 2018, we donated - the property in Grantville, Pennsylvania, donated 4,000 pounds of food to the Grantville Food Pantry. That is through the Faith United Church in Grantville. And as I talked about, Relay for Life is a major kind of focus for us as a company.

Let me now turn the presentation over
to Chris Rogers SVP of Corporate Development.

Chris.

**MR. ROGERS:** Thank you.

I'm Chris Rogers, C-H-R-I-S, R-O-G-E-R-S, and I'm the Senior Vice President of Corporate Development at Penn.

I'm very excited today to be talking to you about our project at the Hollywood Casino in Morgantown. Just a little bit of background to start with. As you recall, we won the fifth auction on April 4th of last year for $7.5 million, and selected as our location a 15-mile territory centered in West Cocalico Township. We feel very fortunate to have found what we believe is an excellent site right here in Caernarvon Township for a Greenfield development on an undeveloped, but improved site, right at the intersection of I-76 and 176.

As you can see from the map, this is a - a new jurisdiction for us, a new market for us. This - this facility is about equidistant between our property Hollywood Casino in Grantville and the City of Philadelphia and about 23 miles from Lancaster and about 12 miles south of Reading and our corporate headquarters in Wyomissing. We
submitted our gaming application on October 31st. Onto the project. You'll probably notice right off the bat the classic art deco styling, reminiscent of our Hollywood Casino in Grantville. I do want to mention at the onset, this is a satellite casino. It's much smaller in scale than what we have in Grantville. But we would consider the fit and finishes to be of equal quality to that facility, and certainly commensurate with the Hollywood Casino brand.

The total project has a budget of about $111 million, would be approximately 86,000 square feet, with a full complement of 750 slot machines, 30 tables, with the ability to expand up to 40. We would be relocating, or hope to relocate our race - existing off-track betting parlor in Lancaster to this facility so that we could offer an integrated race book and sports book operation here in Morgantown.

Of course, we will have food and beverage offerings, including the signature restaurant, a food hall with multiple choices for food options, as well as bar and entertainment. And if all goes according to plan, we should target an opening sometime at the end of next year.
This slide really emphasizes the ideal location that we've chosen in Caernarvon Township. You can see this is right in the corridor of I-76 and 76, tremendous visibility from the highway, as well as accessibility.

Moving on, a little bit at the site plan, you can see the main entrance is the driveway from the north side, which will take you down a tree-lined driveway into the main entrance, which is the porte cochere on the north side of the property. And there's also a secondary entrance on the west side. There are about a thousand parking spaces around the facility, which should be more than adequate for a property of this size.

Moving inside, this is our floor plan. You can see the dark grey box at the top, that's the main entrance near the porte cochere. The second - and the secondary entrance is on the west side, that's also shaded dark green. In between those, the pink shading would be our proposed sports book, which will be a brand new state-of-the-art facility and I think a great place to watch a game or two.

We - the food and beverage outlets are shaded in the peach. So, on the south side, you have our signature restaurant. On the - on the east
side you see our food hall, both with their own bar, entertainment area. As far as the casino design, we contemplate having the table games in the center of the gaming floor surrounded on all sides by slot machines with an entertainment stage on - on the bottom right - or left hand corner, which we think will make for a very exciting, high energy atmosphere for our customers.

Moving on to the transportation impact. So, the site we have chosen was initially planned for a 200,000 square foot, mixed-use retail development. As a result, the traffic infrastructure has already been designed to accommodate the sort of - a project of this scale. As I noted, our project has - has a proposed square footage of around 86,000 square feet, so much smaller than the original use contemplated.

We - we engaged Langan Engineering to do a study of the potential traffic impact. They looked at 11 nearby intersections and determined that the anticipated traffic for Hollywood Casino is much less than the prior mixed-use development. And both Langan and PennDOT determined that the existing roadway network has sufficient capacity to accommodate the site generated by the casino trips.
We did, of course, consider some of the other local impacts, including local street maintenance, which is negated by the fact that we are right off of the highway at 76, at I-76. Also our use of the utilities, local utilities as well as the impact on public safety, including police, fire and emergency services. In each instance, it was determined that the impacts of this project would not be significant.

But what would be significant is our impact on the economy. 275 direct construction jobs, over $50 million in direct construction expenses. That would mean over $50 million in total positive impacts to the economy of Caernarvon, over $83 million to our home County of Berks, over $102 million to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and about $1.6 million in additional taxes.

So, at this point, I'd like to say and close, by saying that we think that, you know, we take our relationship with the communities very seriously, and we think we have designed this project in a way to really minimize the potential negative impacts of the development while maximizing the potential economic
impact. So, with that, I will turn it over to Dan Ihm to talk about our operations.

MR. IHM: Okay. Thanks, Chris.

Good afternoon, Commission. My name is Dan Ihm, that's I-H-M. I'm the Vice President, General Manager for the Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course, and that's in Grantville, PA. So, I have the luxury of going through some brief operational update that I'll cover over the next several slides.

So, the first slide - see, I make that work a little bit better than everybody else.

So, my first slide is talking a little bit about the expected game mix and amenities. So, at the Hollywood Morgantown, we will be opening up with a max, per regulation, of 750 slot machines. We'll offer reel and video. The majority of those games will be video and we'll offer denominations from a penny to a hundred dollars. And my anticipation is probably 70 percent of the slot floor will probably be penny denom. And we'll also offer 30 table games with an opportunity to expand to an additional 10 per approval, if needed.

We'll offer variations of blackjack. We'll have 21 plus 3 craps, roulette, and we'll also
offer some carnival games, which is kind of your three-card poker and some of your Midi-Bacc Games. Pari-mutuel wagering and sports book, we are going to do something very similar to what we did in Grantville, we will actually have the two combined. We found a lot of synergies by doing that, so - as well as the two complement each other very well. So, we'll continue that strategy.

The signature restaurant and bar, however, we do not have a name for the signature restaurant yet. We do know it will be a casual dining experience, with a little over 200 seats. So, it will be very similar to, I guess, the Skybox, for those of you that are familiar with the Grantville property, which is located upstairs. We'll also have the bar, which is similar to a draft house-type bar setting.

Lounge with small stage. The stage will - will feature regional and local artists and we'll probably have that entertainment on weekends, maybe Friday, Saturday nights. And then a food hall, which is about a hundred seats. It's also kind of a grab-and-go concept, so that'll be the concept that we'll have available to us 24/7. And that'll offer similar products, kind of like what we
have at the Eatery. So, it's sandwiches, hamburgers
New York-style pizza, Philly cheese steak
sandwiches, those types of things.

And I - and I know the Commission has all
been to the Grantville property, so just to give you
an idea of kind of the landscape, I know Chris
talked about the square footage, with the facility
being 85,000 square feet. The gaming square footage
is approximately 45,000 square feet, with the 750
and 30 table games. The Grantville property is
about 98,000 square feet. And that has about 2,003
slots and 75 tables. So, the square footage for
gaming is about half of when you did tours of
Grantville, just to give you an idea.

Okay. On the employment side, we are
looking to hire approximately 250 full-time team
members. We also are going to strive to hire as
much locally as we possibly can. At our PA
Grantville facility, about 31 percent of our
employment, our full-time employment, comes out of
East Hanover Township. So, we'd like to try to hire
as many as we can from the local area.

But with those 250 full time, we offer
a list of benefits, as you can see up on the screen.
A 401(k), and after a year of employment there's
also a company match, medical, dental, paid time off. There's a bonus program that we pay out quarterly, and that's for customer service initiatives. Tuition reimbursement. So, that's - that's a great one. Our undergraduates, we can give up to $2,500, and then for graduate degrees, we give $5,000 for those full-time folks looking to further their education.

Professional development. We have several programs at Penn National and at the Grantville facility. We have a lead program, which is our leadership program that supervisors go through, as well as we do a lot of cross training with all of our team members, so they have the ability to work outside of their normal scope of work, just to learn different facets of the business. And then our free table game dealer training. That's a six-week course, that if you want to become a table game dealer, you can take this course in six weeks and after that training, you can go out and start doing live games. And those positions pay a little over $20 an hour. So, it's a - it's a great - great position to be in.

And then representative of the community. So, many of our staff and our leadership
team members, as I know we discussed earlier in the slide deck, John did, many of them sit on boards. We work for non-profits, we work with not-for profit organizations, as well as boards for Chamber of Commerce, et cetera. So, we're very active within the communities we serve.

And then on the right-hand side, that's just to give you an idea of those 250 full-time. You can see kind of some of the positions that we'd be looking for and maybe a percent of - of those positions, so obviously gaming and food and beverage are the top two.

Social responsibility, obviously very important for Penn National Gaming. So, we spend a little over $30,000, this is the Grantville facility. We spend a little over $30,000 annually on compulsive and problem gambling initiatives. So, every single team member that's hired on, which would be the same for the Hollywood Casino in Morgantown, every - every person we hire on will take an annual training and training upon hire.

We have quarterly roundtables, which are knowledge checks. Those are really pop quizzes. Daily pre-shift discussions, which are in all departments. We have the state-of-the art ID
verification system, and really that does two things. It - we use it obviously to monitor all of the access points in the casino to check for anybody that may be under the age of 21.

We also use that system for self-excluded patrons. So, there's a self-state self-excluded list that gets inputted into our VeriDoc system. So, anybody that self excludes, that's in the entire - from any casino in PA, gets into that - that list, as well as Penn National takes extra steps.

So, all of the 41 casinos in 18 different jurisdictions, anybody that self excludes from any one of those properties is put into our system, because really the - the belief is - at Penn is that, you know, if you have a problem gambling that is doesn't stop at state lines.

So, Chris talked about the economic impacts as it relates to the construction. So, this is the impact as it relates to operations. You can see in Caernarvon it's $73 million, which is the initial impact. And I won't go through every one of these. I'll just wait minute and you guys can go through, but you can see Berks County, Pennsylvania and other. And upon stabilization, obviously those
numbers increase. Caernarvon is - goes from $73 to $94.3 million. And these are direct, indirect and induced.

So, the local impact, Caernarvon Township. There's $1.6 million annually in new revenues for Caernarvon Township upon stabilization. This is the two percent of the slot revenue and one percent of table revenues. So, that's $1.6 million annually.

Public safety is obviously very important. In fact, we've already kind of started the groundwork on the public safety front. And we've actually met with John Scalia, as - he's the Chief of Police, as well as the Fire Chief, which is Jason Brooks. They came to our facility and had an extensive tour of our facilities, both on the - on the public safety aspect, just to understand our policies, our procedures, our infrastructures and how we handle certain circumstances. And - so we spent a nice - a nice day with that group, just so we could understand and all be on the same page getting out in front.

Some of the things that we discussed were the parking areas. And the parking areas here at the Morgantown facility will be very well lit.
We - we will have - our security department will do police checks and patrols in their vehicle. That happens throughout the day and the evening while we're open.

And surveillance, which surveillance is a component. Our surveillance cameras and systems, we have surveillance both, obviously, internally in the casino, but also within - outside in the parking area. To give you an idea, there's a lot of surveillance equipment, as you know, in the Grantville facility, we have a little over a thousand cameras at that facility. So, surveillance is a big - big component in providing and helping with the public safety needs.

And on the existing tourism, that is just an area that we were already setting up meetings with the local hotel. And we'll be working with local community leaders and we'll be utilizing our advertising and marketing strategies to help drive and help promote the tourism in the area.

And then in summary, Penn National is a highly reputable entertainment company that creates and operates high-quality facilities in 18 different jurisdictions. We have a proven record of civic and charitable involvement in Berks County and
the surrounding communities, significant investment in Caernarvon area, over $111 million, creation of approximately 250 permanent jobs and 275 construction jobs, as Chris indicated, target date of winter/fall of 2020, minimal impact and costs to the township, and again, $1.6 million annually in new tax revenues for Caernarvon Township.

So, with that, I'm going to turn it back over to Adrian. And thank you very much. I appreciate the opportunity.

MR. KING: That's our presentation. At this point, I would move our presentation into the record.

PRESIDING OFFICER: It's so moved and it will also be posted to the Board's website in the next few days for viewing.

MR. KING: Very good. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and present.

PRESIDING OFFICER: And we'll see if the Board members have any questions for you.

MR. KING: Great.

MR. SANTONI: Thank you for your presentation gentleman and maybe this is for Chris. On the site plan I just wondered where - like where
we are now in conjunction to where the facility is going to be.

MR. ROGERS: So, if you take the two slides of where we are currently - is that the question?

MR. SANTONI: Where - where - where we are now in relation to where the casino -

MR. ROGERS: Yeah. I think - I think we would be - we're directly south.

MR. SANTONI: Okay.

Is there any traffic coming in off the Turnpike? Is it - is there any fall over -

MR. ROGERS: We don't -.

MR. SANTONI: - through this community here and downtown Morgantown? Is there going to be a lot of traffic that has to come in here and closer to some of the residential areas?

MR. ROGERS: Very minimal use of the - of the local streets by our studies. I mean, all - the traffic from 176, it's a direct shot exit, certainly right on to the - to the entryway. From 76, you're just going 76 to 176 and then you're directly on the access road.

MR. SANTONI: That's all I have.

Thank you.
PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay.
With that, we will move on to the public input portion of today's hearing.

ATTORNEY KING: Thank you.

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(WHEREUPON THERE WAS A BRIEF INTERRUPTION IN THE PROCEEDINGS.)

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PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay. Thank you.
So, a few ground rules before we start. Like I said before, each speaker will have about five minutes - well, will have five minutes to make their - their comments. And to assist all speakers in engaging the time limit permitted, we have our electronic stopwatch up here. The light will show green for the time you're speaking. It will turn yellow when you have 45 seconds left. And it will turn red when your five minutes are up.

So, when the light turns green, your time has started and when it turns yellow, you have 45 seconds left and I would suggest you wrap up your comments at that point. And at the red - and it will beep and we will - you'll be asked to stop speaking and leave the microphone for the next person.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: For the record, there was no Pledge of Allegiance. Was there?

PRESIDING OFFICER: No, there was not. So, to keep the hearing moving, I will call two names at a time. The first time I call your name, with the exception of the very first person to speak, you will be on deck. So, if – and the second time I call your name, you'll come up to the podium. So, the first time you hear your name, with the exception of the first person I call, who will be the first person to speak, if you could come stand over here to the side, we want to try to keep this moving. We have a long list of speakers today. And hopefully that will help keep us moving along.

So, I'm going to swear people in by group. We're going to start with our government representatives that have registered to speak today. I have a list of five of you; Tim Hennessey, Kevin Barnhardt, Allen Styer, Gary Elston and Dwight Frizen. If you could all stand at the table and raise your right hand to be sworn.

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(WHEREUPON, WITNESSES SWORN EN MASSE)

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PRESIDING OFFICER: So, we have up
first to speak, Representative Tim Hennessey, and on
deck, Kevin Barnhardt from Berks County.

Okay. Maybe Mr. Hennessey has not
made it.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Or he can't get in
the building. There's a lot of people outside just
so you know. And they can't hear anything.

PRESIDING OFFICER: All right.
So, then we'll start with Kevin
Barnhardt.

MR. BARNHARDT: Good afternoon,
Commission.

PRESIDING OFFICER: And a reminder to
everyone, if you could state and spell your name and
if you're here representing a group or an entity,
tell us who that is and if you're an individual,
where you reside.

MR. BARNHARDT: Good afternoon,
Commission. My name is Kevin Barnhardt, K-E-V-I-N,
B-A-R-N-H-A-R-D-T. I'm a Berks County Commissioner
and also a member of the Board of Directors of the
Greater Reading Visitors and Tourism Bureau. I'm
here on behalf of myself, as a County Commissioner,
not on behalf of the Board of Commissioners. I
wanted to clarify that.
But I feel this is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity for our county, to bring in 275 part - well, 275 construction jobs and over 250 jobs permanently for this casino build. Certainly, we struggle in Berks County with a high tax rate, whether it's school district or county tax, and any type of infusion of tax dollars we can utilize to lower that cost will, I think, certainly encourage folks to live and work and enjoy Berks County.

I'm full - fully supportive of the casino, because I do believe it brings a good level of jobs and support for the community. And I also think it's great for the township to be able to utilize the services of that, as far as a tax offset. As a Tourism Bureau member, over the years the state has been declining mightily in the amount of money they promote the State and tourism. We are very heavily restricted in Berks County by five percent hotel room tax. That was a legislative initiative back in the late '90s with respect to the Convention Center in downtown Reading. And over the years, it's raised a small amount of revenue because 80 percent of that money goes to the debt service for the Convention Center. Only 20 percent comes to the Tourism and Visitors Bureau, about $250,000 to
$300,000.

So, with the infusion of more folks staying at the area hotels, that, of course, raises additional revenue for the Tourism Bureau to use to promote and market the area. We've got great amenities here. We want to continue to build on the success of a casino to build other attractions so people will want to not just come here, enjoy and recreate in Berks County, but to also stay and live here and become productive members of the area.

So, for all those reasons and many more, I fully support this on behalf of myself as a commissioner and the Tourism Bureau. And if there is additional revenues generated by the taxation of Caernarvon, and there's additional from what I understand from the legislation, I would advocate on behalf of the County to utilize that for additional economic development opportunities and additional tourism opportunities. I would advocate that most of the money that the County would derive from the casino would go toward promoting tourism. It's a great opportunity.

Right now, we have $900 million that comes into Berks County that it's spent by tourism. An average tourist coming in one day, spends $250
to $400. Again, it helps to spread the cost of operating a very large county government, as well as fully funding a tourism bureau that sorely needs it.

    So, thank you for your time and patience here this afternoon. Thank you.

    **PRESIDING OFFICER:** Thank you. Allen Styer is up, and Gary Elston is on deck.

    **MR. STYER:** Hi, Allen Styer, A-L-L-E-N, S-T-Y-E-R, and I'm III. I'm the Chairman of the Board of Caernarvon Township Supervisors. I've been on the Board for nine years. I've been the Chairman for six.

    The Board initiated the process in November of 2017. We put a great deal of thought into it. 11/14/17 the Board discussed opting out. Someone mentioned on the Board that New Morgan Borough is probably going to opt in in their rights to the north of us, and you know, we realize that we have a casino near our community, we still have the negatives even if we're not getting the positives of the tax base that a casino would provide.

    So, we decided to opt in. We - the lot that they chose actually is the lot we envisioned, we hoped that they would choose. You
know, it was for sale. It was vacant for years. It was semi-improved, but it's like a quarter mile off the Turnpike and 176. So, the majority of the traffic is not even going to go through our community.

As soon as we opted in, we realized we had to create zoning for a casino because we didn't have that provision in our current ordinances. So, we had the Planning Commission work on that. Two times in 2018, the Planning Commission reviewed and commented on the ordinance and so did the Berks County Planning Commission.

The ordinance was designed to - I mean, we chose the C-3 Zoning District, which is the highway commercial. And the reason for that is the C-3 Zoning District isn't near any residential developments. So, you don't have the concern about the casino being near a big housing development.

It's kind of isolated by the - from most of our population from our town by the Turnpike cutting through between the casino and the residents of Morgantown. When Penn National surfaced, the township performed due diligence by meeting with Penn National Gaming Representatives to explore the nature of their operations. We visited Hollywood
Casino in Grantville, and the Chief of Police met with Penn National Gaming Representatives in Grantville to explore security concerns.

We viewed the University of Massachusetts School of Public Health and Health Services Science Study on the impact of casinos on host municipalities, interviewed the Township Manager of East Hanover Township, Dauphin County to explore the impact of the casino on the local community.

And the anticipated benefits that we see with this casino, economic development, increased employment opportunities, expand our tax base, improve local services, hire additional police officers. The casino, based on the study, might only get less than ten calls a month. But if we hire additional police officers, the whole community's going to enjoy that additional police coverage, you know, throughout the month.

It also is going to improve the township's ability to attract the complaints that we get. We don't have good sit-down restaurants and we don't have a supermarket, grocery store. Hopefully, once we get the casino, instead of being a drive-through, pass-through community, this will be
a destination place for people and maybe some other businesses will want to come here. And it will also reduce our pressure to raise taxes because - well, we haven't raised taxes in over 20 years and it's getting tight. And that's all I have.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.
Gary Elston is up - grab the mic - and Dwight Frizen is on deck.

MR. ELSTON: Good afternoon, Commissioners. Gary C. Elston, E-L-S-T-O-N. I'm the Chairman of the Board of West Nantmeal Township Supervisors in West Nantmeal Township, Chester County. We are an adjoining township to the east of Caernarvon Township. And our questions are as follows, even though a couple of the gentlemen did touch on a few of these questions.

Has there been an independent traffic study done on the impact and the increase of traffic that would be generated on our area's roadways? And if so, could the traffic study be made public? If a study has not been done, which the question has been answered. It has been done. Whether it's been done, by an incomplete - an independent study would be nice - be nice if Penn National Gaming, along
with PennDOT and Caernarvon Township, would do such a study. Our concerns are as follows.

There are four major state highways that are located within West Nantmeal Township and Elverson Borough, PA Route 23, PA Route 401, PA Route 82 and Little Conestoga Road, which is Legislative Route 4016. We feel that all these highways that travel through West Nantmeal Township and Elverson Borough will be impacted by the travel to the proposed Category 4 Casino from attendees traveling from the east and the south.

Presently, our residents have safe travel to schools and various present and future business locations located in Caernarvon Township. We want to see that safe travel continues into the future. And the problem that most of these routes are small, winding country roads, half of them presently are very poor drainage and very poor surface conditions.

Our major concern with the proposed project is the intersection located approximately three-quarters of a mile east of Caernarvon - east in Caernarvon Township and Berks County. The intersection we are referring to and concerned about is PA Route 23 and PA Route 401, located in District
5 of PennDOT. This intersection is presently controlled by a single stop sign. And all the routes mentioned previously lead and intersect through the intersection to get to Morgantown's places of business and proposed location of the casino.

In addition, this intersection is located in the area of Twin Valley Elementary School, Twin Valley Fire Department and Elverson-Honey Brook Emergency Medical Services, which provides all the emergency services to Caernarvon Township, Elverson Borough and West Nantmeal Township. Presently at peak times of the day, traffic backs up past the entrance to the fire and EMS facilities on Route 401. The number of crashes in this intersection has increased in the last three years and there has been fatalities in the past at this intersection.

Taking all the aforementioned into consideration, we feel, with the increased traffic to the proposed casino, a traffic-control device, a red light is warranted. This will facilitate a safer flow of traffic rather than just one vehicle at a time trying to enter onto Route 23 or exit from Route 23 to Route 401.
We feel that Penn National Gaming will be responsible for the increase in the traffic and perhaps a significant increase. They should be - this should be responsible for the safety of all concerned. Therefore, Penn National Gaming should work with PennDOT and District 5 and Caernarvon Township to provide the necessary funding and engineering controls to be put into place at the intersection for safety of the school attendees, emergency services, residents, all travelers and their future patrons.

Thank you for your time and consideration today for this very important matter.
Respectfully submitted, Gary C. Elston, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, West Nantmeal Township and President of Elverson-Honey Brook Emergency Medical Services.

PRESIDING OFFICER: We have Dwight Frizen up and Representative Tim Hennessey, I understand he's here, is on deck.

MR. FRIZEN: Thanks. My name Dwight Frizen. It's spelled F-R-I-Z-E-N. I am the President of Elverson Borough Council.

To the members of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, Caernarvon Township Board of Supervisors, West Nantmeal Township Board of Supervisors, and members of the Cabinet.
Supervisors and leaders in our local communities present here today, and also the Penn National Gaming Team, first, thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the Morgantown Casino project.

I'm an Elverson resident, father, grandfather, work at IBM, and, as I've mentioned, President of the Borough Council. I'm here today with some fellow members of Borough Council, representing the community of Elverson, good neighbors to Morgantown, with whom we proudly share local resources and amenities, such as Twin Valley Fire Department and EMS services, as well as the Morgantown Crossing Shopping Complex.

The Borough of Elverson is a small, country town with a population of approximately 1,400 people and it's located just adjacent to Caernarvon Township and neighboring Chester County. Admittedly, we have our reservations about the impact of a casino moving within a few miles of our little town. But we're not here to dispute this project, as we respect the Caernarvon Township team has done due diligence around the benefits and challenges to their community.

As you can see, there are also plenty of people here this evening to intelligently argue
both sides of this important matter. What we are here to do is to offer this Board thoughtful and economic and structural considerations and recommendations to protect Elverson from impacts created on our small town planned over the next five to ten years should this casino project come to fruition.

If I may, I'd like to draw your attention to the maps I provided. Linda, I don't know if you would pass those out.

PRESIDING OFFICER: I did.

MR. FRIZEN: What I'm depicting in there is the areas of financial benefit, which is in the pink there, which obviously go to Caernarvon Township and upwards into Berks County. But economically and structurally, the impact of a casino would affect more on a radius from the casino into Lancaster and Chester Counties.

In the diagram, this is a radius of five miles, which is depicted in blue there. In rural areas, such as ours, this impact will be felt. The simple fact is that the casino coming to Morgantown adds expense to Elverson, which was not slated to receive - but we're not slated to receive any of the proposed benefit. Please let me
elaborate on some of the foreseeable expenses.

   First, based on our 40 years of collective experience in community and township planning, I think we can effectively predict the casino will bring increased traffic through our town. Route 23 is the major non-interstate road through this area. We also have Routes 401 and 82 that Mr. Elston had already mentioned that bring significant traffic through.

   To maintain safety due to increased traffic within these borough limits, we will need to increase traffic-calming efforts, road maintenance and add signage, radar monitors and possibly one or more traffic signals on a stepped-up schedule. The expense for all these necessary additional safety needs are not covered, as I mentioned, in our five and ten-year plan.

   Secondly, due to the increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic to our borough and surrounding area, there will be a need to make financial revisions for increased use of the EMS and fire department services, as well as State Police assistance. We do not have and cannot afford our own police force.

   The Elverson Borough Council
respectfully submits for consideration to the good members of the Gaming Control Board and Caernarvon Township Board, a request for planned and fair compensation for the expenses which I just mentioned. We are not asking for our piece of the pie, rather we are asking for compensation for the increased civic burden that will inevitably come.

Your consideration of the above request is important to our small borough. What we can offer is the expertise of our borough council team members and related consultants to meet with your respective boards to research, answer questions and help solidify an equitable plan to address these predicted Elverson Borough expenses that will result from the casino being built.

The safety and well-being of Elverson and Morgantown residents, as well as guests to our communities, is what is most important to us. That's what I'm speaking here this evening.

Respectfully submitted, Dwight Frizen, President Elverson Borough Council.

PRESIDING OFFICER: All right.
Representative Hennessey.

MR. HENNESSEY: Hello. Let me begin my apologizing to the Board for being late. I was
at a funeral for my cousin down in Lansdale. It ran longer than I expected.

So, I'm the Pennsylvania State Representative for House District 26, which really begins about a mile and a half from here, from the township building. The decision to allow - whether to allow the building of the Hollywood Casino in Morgantown is a very serious matter, in that it will impact the future of Southern Berks County for decades. If it were to be built, it could conflict with the cultures and conservative traditions of this region in the Commonwealth.

It might be successful and profitable for Penn National, even though it's constructed in very conservative territory. If it is successful, it will likely owe a large portion of its success to importing its customers and from other areas via the Pennsylvania Turnpike and Route I-76 - or 176, rather than from its immediate surroundings here.

Pennsylvania is not as conservative a state as it once was, but the area chosen by the - or for the Hollywood Casino by Penn National is itself, still very conservative. Penn National's choice to locate here is itself a gamble. It could be very successful or it could fail and leave a
massive empty building, which is not easily adaptable to more commonplace uses.

It's also highly unlikely that the legislature could've imagined a location like this one, at the very boundary of Berks County. Act 42 did foresee that there would be some inevitable adverse consequences which would spill beyond the casino site itself and impact surrounding neighborhoods. The Act expressly allows the host township to share some of its - the financial income with neighboring municipalities, and you've heard the concerns of Mr. Elston and Mr. Frizen about the impacts they expect in their municipalities.

And while it's not expressly stated that a host county could share its new found bonanza and casino revenues with another county, a reasonable case can be made that the county can and should do so in a situation like this, where the site is literally on the county border with Chester County.

The Gaming Control Board should consider whether the proximity of the Valley Forge Casino, which is 27 miles away, and the Casino at Penn National Racecourse 44 miles away near Harrisburg, bodes well or ill for the financial
success of this proposed casino.

And the Supervisors of Caernarvon Township will need to carefully apply the township's land development ordinances appropriately if this Board approves the Hollywood Casino Morgantown Proposal before you today.

Thank you very much. I appreciate the thought and the considerations you guys will put into a decision as to whether or not to approve this specific site.

As I said, it's probably the least likely site that the legislature might have imagined someone would decide to put a casino in because of the conservative nature of the region that we're in. but it is a proposal and I think that while the Legislature can make some decisions about this, it really leaves it to the Board to make the determination as to whether or not this fits in with the area, the surroundings of Berks County, lower southern Berks County. And as I've said, you've heard the concerns of the neighboring municipalities across - just across the line in Chester County.

Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

We will move on to our community
groups. I have nine registered. Samuel Rohrer, Randolph Peers, Andrea McHenry, Ryan Helms, Jacob Kurtz, Coleen Painter, Liza Grundy, William McGee, and Michelle Raymond. If you could all stand, if you're able, to be sworn. Raise your right hand to be sworn by the court reporter.

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(WHEREUPON, WITNESSES SWORN EN MASSE)

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PRESIDING OFFICER: We will begin with Samuel Rohrer and Randolph Peers is on deck. And I apologize ahead of time if I mispronounce your names. I think I've already done that once.

MR. ROHRER: Members of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, my name is Sam Rohrer, R-O-H-R-E-R, last name. Today I speak as a citizen, for 40 years I've lived only several miles from the proposed location of the Hollywood Casino.

I have a personal interest in the well being of this community as my 6 children and my 14 grandchildren live within a 20-mile radius of the proposed casino.

I have a vested interest in representing them and all of the other families who are seeking to bring up their children with wholesome values of hard work and productive employment. But that isn't the only
vested interest I have.

I speak also as a former State Representative who, for 18 years, served the 128th District, which includes this community. I speak with full confidence that my comments accurately represent the citizens of not only Caernarvon Township, but also the citizens who reside immediately to the west, south, north and east in western Chester, in eastern Lancaster and southern Berks Counties.

As president of the Pennsylvania Pastor's Network, I also speak on behalf of pastors and moral leaders who are seeking to stem this moral slide of our culture, running in to the arms of disaster as sex abuse is on the increase and as families are falling apart due to drug, opioid, alcohol and gambling addictions.

While some proponents of this casino will offer some benefits, all will likely cite the only possible but nonetheless disingenuous and elusive benefit of personal financial gain or tax revenue enhancements. The proponents will conspicuously ignore the obvious reality that unlike normal business, gambling gives no money that hasn't been first taken from those least able to lose it,
or that gambling produces an addiction to the get-rich-quick mentality. And gambling clouds the judgment of some public officials and some business leaders, leading some to compromise their community values over the allure of money.

Because the negative impacts of gambling are statically astounding, and I can cite many, I'd like to conclude my comments in the form of several commonsense questions. To the supervisors I ask, why would you consider the unique nature of this community and the culture of the people who voted for you to be of such little value that a pragmatic decision to gain a few dollars outstrip what you know will bring negative impacts on this community? What cultural or moral values do you offer in exchange for a few potential dollars extracted from hoodwinked and possibly addicted gamblers?

To the Gaming Commission members, what cultural value does a major gambling casino contribute to this community and this tri-county area? What upstanding values of character, integrity or work ethic will a casino offer our children or our families? What upstanding attributes can a gambling facility offer any
community, but especially to this - our historically
God-fearing culture? I know of none.

    Why does Penn National Gaming hire ESI
Consult Solutions, Incorporated to compile a
limited-focus economic local impact report, which
cites the few financial benefits of a casino in
glowing terms, but then cites no negatives. Why
aren't honest, unbiased and comprehensive local
impact reports required by the Gaming Control Board,
demanded by the Caernarvon Supervisors or
volunteered by Penn National?

    A comprehensive report should include
the local impact on families, the local impact on
the moral and social health of the community and the
local impact on preexisting cultural values. Why
are the entire sections - or entire sections of the
Penn National online application to the Gaming
Control Board for this Hollywood Casino Morgantown
redacted or blanked out? What's being withheld from
the public? For instance, a simple yes
or no answer is visible for certain questions, but
redacted for questions 10 to 16 which reads, quote,
during the last ten-year period has an applicant,
it's parent company, any of its affiliates,
intermediaries, subsidiaries, holding companies,
principals, employees or any third parties acting on
or behalf of applicant made any bribes or kickbacks
or made any payments alleged to have been bribes or
kickbacks to any employee, person, company or
organization to obtain favorable treatment?
Redacted.

I was in the Pennsylvania House in the
marathon session when the gambling consortium bought
its way into Pennsylvania. They promised there
would be a few racetracks but are now invading
settled and wholesome communities across the state
in the form of freestanding casinos.

In the final minutes of the debate,
just after midnight on Sunday morning July 4th,
2004, I argued against this legislation by stating
that if it was passed, it would open the door to
gambling and introduce a creeping cultural cancer
into our Commonwealth.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Sir.

MR. ROHRER: I stated how -
PRESIDING OFFICER: Sir, sir, Mr.
Rohrer. Your time's up.

MR. ROHRER: - ironic it was that the
Pennsylvania General Assembly - just a minute.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Sir, your time is
up.

MR. ROHRER: - when outlined by
William Penn and first led by -. 

PRESIDING OFFICER: Sir -. 

MR. ROHRER: My voice is weak.
I will say this in conclusion. For
the Gaming Control Board to place a casino in this
conservative Morgantown area is incongruous. While
gambling may now be legal, it remains inconsistent
with and abhorrent to and - by most communities in
Pennsylvania.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Time's up. If you
would like to submit your written comment -. 

MR. ROHRER: Pardon?

PRESIDING OFFICER: The remainder of
your written comment, if you would like to submit
that right now -

MR. ROHRER: Yes, I will indeed.

PRESIDING OFFICER: - and we'll keep
that as part of the record.

MR. ROHRER: And I will say that it's
not welcome. If the Gaming Control Boards wants -
welcome communities - it's not welcome here.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Randolph -

Randolph Peers and Andrea McHenry is on deck.
MR. PEERS: Good afternoon,

Commissioners, my name's Randy Peers, P-E-E-R-S. I'm President and CEO of the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance. The GRCA was formed in January of 2017 through a merger of Berks County's Chamber of Commerce and two county-wide economic development entities creating the area's largest business and economic development association.

With over 1,200 business members, we represent the third largest Chamber of Commerce in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In addition, the County's leading - as the County's leading economic development entity, we're responsible for managing a wide range of financing and land development programs, including the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority Loan Program.

I'm here to testify today in favor of Penn National's Gaming Category 4 Application to build a mini casino in Morgantown. The approximately 82,000 square foot facility hosting 750 slot machines and 30 table games, will provide both direct and indirect economic benefits to the surrounding area and to Berks County in general.

The casino will create 275 construction jobs and another 250 permanent jobs
when the facility becomes fully operational. These are jobs with good wages, family-sustaining wages, and a very big benefit package. The GRCA has already engaged Penn National Gaming in conversations about local hiring and we have set up a series of meetings with the Berks County Workforce Development Board to coordinate the hiring efforts.

In addition, Penn National Gaming has indicated that they are also interested in procuring goods and services for the facility from local firms and will be working with Penn National Gaming to register and certify Berks County suppliers through their vendor process. Local hiring and local procurement represent one of the most positive direct benefits associated with this project. But we also anticipate there'll be significant indirect economic activity generated in and around the area near the casino.

The influx of many new people coming to play at the casino will positively impact small businesses in the area including restaurants and other food establishments, hotels and retail shops. The casino itself will become a destination, serving as a gateway to many other amenities, including tourist destinations throughout Berks
County that can be promoted to folks coming in from outside the area.

It is also estimated that two-thirds of the revenue from the facility will come from people who live outside of Berks County. This is significant because tax revenue generated will benefit Caernarvon Township and Berks County. Therefore, the benefits of locating here will have lasting positive impacts on the residents who live here, providing much needed revenue for essential services and lessening the need to raise taxes.

It is also important to note that according to the local impact report, the facility will not significantly add to the infrastructure or emergency services costs and that - and the minimal impacts will be greatly offset by the new tax revenue.

While the aforementioned benefits represent a clear win for Berks County and Caernarvon Township, it's important to place the building of the casino into a much larger context. For the last several years, the GRCA and our affiliate organizations have been working aggressively to promote Berks County as a premier live, work and play community in an effort to
advance our talent attraction and talent retention efforts.

Why is this significant? Simply put, we face a silver tsunami, an aging workforce in key industries that will threaten our ability to attract and retain companies to the area. Therefore, we must make a concerted effort to attract new people to Berks County and retain more of our local young people who grew up here. And we know to our younger generations, quality of place matters.

In addition to good jobs, good schools and a good quality of life, for millennials, entertainment and recreational options matter as well. Berks County scores high in many of these areas, but we must continue to increase our recreation options. Having a casino in our back yard, along with the entertainment options that will accompany it, represents an important enhancement to our quality of place rating and gives us an advantage over other communities.

In sum, the GRCA enthusiastically endorses this application and it represents, in our opinion, a win-win scenario for Berks County. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Andrea McHenry
Ryan Helms on deck.

MS. MCHENRY: Andrea McHenry, A-N-D-R-E-A, M-C-H-E-N-R-Y. I'm the Executive Director of a Non-Profit Organization called FREE. We do anti-human trafficking work in Berks County. Our main focus is sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. When we think of sex trafficking, we often think overseas. But while sex trafficking is an epidemic overseas, it's also an epidemic here in America. In fact, sex trafficking has been reported in all 50 states. While there is not an exact number of human trafficking victims in the United States, it's estimated there are hundreds of thousands of victims every year, with 83 percent of confirmed victims of sex trafficking in the U.S. American citizens.

A misconception is that sex trafficking is just happening in our cities in America. The truth of the matter is sex trafficking and commercial sex is happening in our cities, our suburbs, our rural areas, even in small towns like here in Morgantown. Sex trafficking does not discriminate. There are certainly socioeconomic factors that make someone more vulnerable to being trafficked, such as homelessness, poverty, runaway
youth, drug addiction, and prior sexual abuse, just
to name a few.

Just like socioeconomic factors that
can make someone more vulnerable, there are also
certain variables that can make an area more
vulnerable to seeing an increase in trafficking and
prostitution. There are certain factors in an area
that we can see foster an increase in the demand for
commercial sex. FREE is neither for or against a
casino, and while hotels, motels, nightclubs,
casinos are not the only places where human
trafficking occurs, they can certainly set the stage
for sexual exploitation to occur.

Casinos bring an influx of people with
money, ready for a good time. Unfortunately,
because of this, the demand for sexual services can
and most often are greater at casinos, sporting
events, conventions, anywhere where there's an
influx of people. Human trafficking works on a
supply and a demand. The victim in the supply, the
sex is the demand.

Traffickers who are selling women and
children seek out lucrative hotspots, such as a
casino. A casino may place a community at increased
risk of sex trafficking and prostitution. Where we
add an area with a drug epidemic like we see here in Berks County, there is an even greater potential to see a rise in the demand for commercial sex, as drug use is often a ploy traffickers use, whether they are targeting someone who's drug addicted, or getting their victim drug addicted, all as a way to get a victim to comply and keep them controlled.

There is an intersection between human trafficking and bringing in an influx of people into places. There's also an intersection of human trafficking and opioid addiction. Detective William Campbell, a New Hanover County Sheriff's Deputy, who sits on the FBI Trafficking Task Force, when talking about sex trafficking says it starts with opioid addiction and then this becomes the way to pursue and get these - these opioids. In some cases, more often than not, a trafficker will use opioids and drugs to get a victim to comply and to keep them dope sick.

The case of three - the ease of three main arteries to this casino will certainly help visitors to get to this casino more easily, but that as well can be a factor that can increase the demand for commercial sex. It will not only bring in an influx of people that we already talked about, but
it will make it easier for traffickers to bring
their victims in and out of this area quickly, with
less risk and without being seen.

Hotels, motels, casinos, nightclubs, drugs, three main arteries of road access into an area, make a community more vulnerable to human trafficking and make children in that community more vulnerable to being trafficked and sexually exploited. All of these variables combined can potentially make this area a hotbed for sex trafficking and prostitution.

Education is key in ending human trafficking. When we know better, we are called to do better. So, what can we do to keep our community and children safe? We can learn the facts. We can be ready to respond. Penn National Gaming, what are your plans to fund and keep this community and children here safe? We all need to be educated about human trafficking, but this will most certainly open a door for this community needing to have a better understanding of human trafficking, how to identify victims, how to report a tip and how to keep children safe.

Our first responders, our law enforcement, will they be trained and ready to
respond to trafficking victims and to traffickers as well as - this goes for local hotels, motels and businesses. Will they be ready to respond? Is our community ready? Penn National Gaming, FREE would love to train your casino staff and also get the National Human Trafficking Hotline up - and your staff. We look forward to staying in touch with you in these matters. I would like to extend an opportunity for then community to come to an educational event we will be having in the spring, date and location to be determined.

Please don't think this cannot happen to your children. It happens to children, even coming from good homes. The average age a child is trafficked in America is 12 to 14 years of age. It can happen to any child. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Ryan Helms and Jacob Kurtz on deck.

MR. HELMS: For the record, my name's Ryan Helms. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. A little on my background, I'm a lifelong resident here.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear you.

MR. HELMS: How about now?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.
MR. HELMS: Sorry.

I'm a lifelong resident here in Reading, Berks County. Currently, I'm the Building Trades President for all 14 building trades here in Berks County. I'm also the Business Manager of the Electrician's Union here locally. I represent several thousands of construction workers here in our region.

I'd like to say that first off, for the Berks County and Reading used to be a quite a middle class town. There was a lot of good-paying jobs here. There was a lot of industry here and facilities that offered really good higher paying wages, good jobs that paid a lot of benefits, healthcare, and so on and so forth, that we just don't seem to see anymore.

I'm 47 years old. I've seen what I think was a good period of time in this county and I've seen it degrade over the years to a point now where it's, you know, those jobs are going and it's tough to find those good-paying jobs. There is development within the County, but it's not necessarily always family-sustaining wages. They're jobs that are like for the working poor, unfortunately. And I think there's a lot of people
that can relate to that. And it's very frustrating to see that. And that's why I take great pride in representing people to get them a better wage and benefit in the construction trades.

Now, I firmly believe that we need to work hard at bringing that back. And I think that this project here would provide a great opportunity for a lot of construction jobs. Obviously, they're saying there's going to be 275 construction jobs. Some people might look at it and say, well, that's just temporary. When you build a project, yeah, you have a - a massive force of people building it, but a facility like this takes a lot of maintenance and continuing projects going on, capital improvement.

The point being that there will be continued construction jobs, not only due to small improvements, but there's a lot of maintenance involved in these places and the benefit for area contractors and local workers would be tremendous for years and years to come.

And you can't also overlook the fact that there's 250 permanent jobs that's going to be available. I mean, they said there's jobs that are, you know, over $20 an hour and we need more of those kinds of jobs here locally. We've been known as the
- you know, Reading's one of the poorest cities in the country. I think that's deplorable. I think it's horrible that we're noted for that.

And I think this is the kind of - exactly the kind of development we need. When you do development like this, I respect everybody's opinion, and I think things should have a proper process and things should be done right. Speaking on behalf of the Building Trades, the construction of a project like this, we are the safest. We are the best. We can deliver an incredibly safe and quality project that nobody ever has to worry about being in a building like this.

I'd just like to go on to say that one of the major attributes of these construction projects like this is apprenticeship. Apprenticeship has become a very high-profile term used these days. You hear a lot about it in schools. The government's speaking about it a lot. People are realizing that college is not the only avenue. The only way that apprenticeships happen is by having projects like this.

This creates tremendous opportunities for young people coming out of high school. Even people - you got a lot of people the try college,
it's not working out for them, and adults that have lost a good paying job and have nowhere to go. And we offer, top notch training. We have training facilities housed right in this county and we train apprentices of all - of all walks of life every day. This creates new opportunity, projects like this, to those kinds of people.

I'd just like to say that I think it's quite obvious I would encourage this project. I think we should encourage the utilization of local contractors and local people to build a project like this. It's good for the community. I think this will have a great impact on the local revenues and sources for the surrounding communities and it's going to cause - spur more construction, more building projects. It just creates a lot of opportunity all the way around for a lot of people.

And I just want to close by saying I think casinos offer a very safe environment actually, they - they have a lot of high security, a lot of camera systems, not only inside the facility but outside of the facility and I think it's a great legal way to go and see some entertainment and enjoy some time with your family. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Jacob Kurtz with
Coleen Painter on deck.

MR. KURTZ: My name is Jacob Kurtz. J-A-C-O-B, K-U-R-T-Z. And I thank you for the privilege of speaking here tonight. You all said - some of them said how close they were to being a part of this. My grandparents owned this whole valley here from North Street to up above Heritage Restaurant from Route 10 down to Morgan Way. And they were good people in this area.

Of course, the Turnpike spoiled the whole thing, came right through and the interchange destroyed everything. And as my grandmother sold off parcels, she would sometimes put stipulations as to what would be allowed on that property that she sold. I don't know if that's legally okay, but she did. And she did not want any property that she sold to have any place that sold alcoholic beverages. So, that lot we're talking about is there.

I now live on that property and I feel like I've come home. I lived around here for a long time, but now I live right on that property. So, I'm sentimental about that, this issue, what goes on, on that property.

We have a good town. We have a good
area here. And we have good schools, low crime, great people who care, just look at how the Twin Valley area has developed in the last couple decades. People want to come to an area like this.

Now, I feel we need to be careful about what we believe. I hear about jobs that will be available. We had jobs come into the Caernarvon Township just about a year ago. It was called a pipeline. They didn't hire local people. And you know what happened? According to my friend who works in the police force in Reading, a - a spike in crime and drugs. Let's get real here about people who come for jobs. And by the way, I didn't know we have an unemployment problem in this area.

I was glad to hear what one proponent said, and I quote, casinos will bring some issues or problems, but they will go away in time. Would that person please go to Atlantic City and tell them that?

So, according to proponents of the casino, there are many advantages when a casino comes to a community. Then why is it that in all my research, I find that the opposite is true? Just a few quotes so we stay truthful. New Jersey officials admit that the gambling industry is a
major cause of family hardships, divorce,
desertions, child abuse, loss of job, debt and loss
of property, alcoholism, and suicide. And I think
it's very interesting that Las Vegas is the suicide
capital of the nation. Hello? Three times the rate
of other cities.

Now let's look at Morgantown. I asked
Siri, you know who that is, what the population is.
And she said the population of Morgantown is 384.
What is an attraction that brings a lot of people to
Morgantown and this area? 384 people, but
yesterday, approximately 2,000 - 2,427 people came
here in this region to church. I think that's
significant and I would like to know why at some
planning meetings and some business meetings and
that - don't those people count? Don't they have a
say in what goes on in this area? I think they
should. They are the backbone of this area.

I don't see phone lines for people
addicted to Wal-Mart, maybe we should, but I do see
numbers to call when people get addicted to
gambling. And - and I have a friend who lives a
couple feet from here that - and I quote her. I
went into debt big time. Now if they see me coming
into a casino, they will immediately arrest me.
Let's say it. To me that is sad for people to have to put up with that.

One other thing, the atmosphere of a casino town. Okay. Years ago, a young lady went to Atlantic City. I went there to pick her up. As I got close to Atlantic City, I felt a pall over the area, a pall is an overspreading elephant - an overspreading element that produces and an effect of gloom. And I think that we will have that here with a casino. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Coleen Painter and Liza - Liza Grundy on deck.

MS. PAINTER: I'm the Reverend Coleen Brandt-Painter, C-O-L-E-E-N, P-A-I-N-T-E-R. I am Pastor of the Elverson United Methodist Church on Main Street in Elverson Borough. And prior to being assigned by my Bishop to Elverson, I served as Pastor of Honey Brook United Methodist Church and I have also been Pastor to Goodwill Church in West Nantmeal Township.

Our United Methodist local churches include members from all the area townships and boroughs and there's strong family and friendship ties between our congregations. The same is true for Caernarvon Township, Berks, and municipalities
that border on it. Although residents may pay
property taxes to different local governments, we
are one community. And so it would be unfair for
the Gaming Commission to consider this a Caernarvon,
Berks decision only.

   The presence of a casino would affect
the whole area and the neighboring municipalities
deserve a say. Most of the municipalities that
border on Caernarvon voted to opt out of the
enabling legislation for this casino. They didn't
do that because they wanted the casino to be built
in Caernarvon. They did it because they don't want
a casino in this community at all.

   Our United Methodist Church stands
against gambling in all its forms. To quote our
social principals, gambling is a menace to society,
deadly to the best interests of moral, social,
economic, and spiritual life, destructive of good
government and good stewardship. The church's
prophetic call is to promote standards of justice
and advocacy that would make it unnecessary and
undesirable to resort to commercial gambling as a
recreation, as an escape or as a means of producing
public revenue or funds for support of charities or
government.
We recognize that the moral argument against gambling has been lost in Pennsylvania and I know that my colleagues in ministry who have - or have also spoken this evening will - have addressed the social problems that come with a casino.

I believe that those of you who serve on the Gaming Commission want to grant licenses in places where it will enhance the economic development of an area, not hinder it. So, I'm going to focus on the economic concerns in our denomination's position and explain why a casino in this community is a bad match, and would work against the larger goal of producing a thriving economy for the Commonwealth as a whole.

This is not a community like Las Vegas where what happens here stays here. This is a community where everybody knows your name and your business, and we like it that way. These are the ties that keep our families, our institutions, and our neighborhoods strong, and we don't want that to change. And I hope you heard in what the Caernarvon Township Supervisor had to say that decisions made by our local officials, especially with regard to the State, are decided with conscious memory of what happened when the landfill went in.
Back in the 1980s, the community opposed the landfill. The State created New Morgan as a separate township and let the landfill come in anyway and Caernarvon and its neighborhood—neighbors ended up having to put up with the stink, without getting any of the revenue. And they're afraid that that will happen again with the casino, so they're willing to play along. I'm not convinced that even the public officials who have signed off on this project really want a casino either.

Independent research studies on the economic impacts of a casino say that while a large casino in an urban area may produce some of the promised economic benefits, this is generally not true of small casinos in rural areas like Morgantown.

I have friends in King of Prussia and I pass the casino there on my way back to Elverson regularly. And I will confirm that this Caernarvon casino site sits barely outside the 25-mile protected radius from the casino in King of Prussia.

A small casino so close to bigger casinos will not attract people and businesses from outside the community. It will just take money from local citizens. And this makes sense to me
intuitively because although I pastor in Elverson, I live in Limerick, Montgomery County, which is about halfway between King of Prussia the site proposed in Caernarvon. If I were a gambler, I wouldn't come to Morgantown, I'd go to the bigger casino in King of Prussia.

However, I do occasionally come to this area, and did before I was assigned here, and bring friends for the other assets that this area offers; the scenic drive, the farmer's markets in Shady Maple, other area businesses and faith-based activities. I'm concerned the presence of a casino will repel people like me, who are not gamblers, from visiting and spending money here.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Can you wrap up your comments? Your five minutes are up. Thank you.

MS. PAINTER: I'm - I'm basically finished.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

MS. PAINTER: But I encourage you to deny this application.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Liza Grundy, William McGee is on deck.

MS. GRUNDY: If you can't hear me, let
Okay. Good afternoon. I would first like to thank all of you for your time today. My name is Liza Grundy, L-I-Z-A, G-R-U-N-D-Y. And I am the President of the Twin Valley Area Community Development Association. I'm joined today with Treasurer Daniel Wodnick, Secretary Jessica McGettigan and organization members, Betsy Ballantyne, Cathy Coffman and Kate Shuhler.

The Twin Valley Area Community Development Association began meeting in the fall of 2017. And in September of 2018 our organization officially became a Pennsylvania-recognized non-profit corporation with a seated board. Our group is currently pursuing our Federal - excuse me, 501(c)(3) status. Before I proceed further, I would like to share with you our mission statement to help better understand the purpose and goal of our organization.

The Twin Valley Area Community Development Association, TVACDA, strives to build a stronger, more unified community by supporting healthy, targeted, sustainable growth. Through forging strong relationships with municipal and community leaders, in partnership with local
businesses, the TVACDA focuses on protecting our natural and historic resources while preserving common community values and culture.

The TVACDA believes that when this is achieved, the community at large will experience a greater sense of unity and preservation of our small town heritage. A core focus of our organization is to create healthy and effective dialogue. We are non-partisan and issue neutral, and neither endorse nor denounce development or preservation of our community, but endeavor to work with all entities to enhance our community, create a sense of ownership for residents, and welcome visitors to our area, thus, strengthening and growing local businesses, and our own varied economies.

Our community, which encompasses both Berks and Chester Counties, is unique and is a perennial focus for regional business and residential development. Proof of this is the current proposed casino project. If this proposed casino project proceeds forward, our group would like to extend an offer to Penn National Gaming to meet with us and discuss ways we can work together towards a goal of ensuring that our community greatly and comprehensively benefits from this
development and effectively minimizes the potential negative impact and threats to the standard of living that we, as residents, have become accustomed to.

It is imperative that, if this development is approved, that a neutral organization, such as the TVACDA, consisting of members on both sides of the issue, be a part of the development process. We feel that by providing a sense of ownership in the design of this proposed development, the TVACDA will help to forge the gap between this large corporate conglomerate and the many voices and varying opinions of our community.

Again - I'm under pressure, ten minutes I had. Again, this approach towards healthy dialogue is fundamentally at the core of our organization and the best approach towards achieving our mission. While projects - projects of this magnitude are driven by tax revenue and profit margins, protecting the quality of life for those that live here and will continue to call this area home for generations to come, must - and I cannot stress this enough, must be the primary concern of the Pennsylvania Gaming Commission, Penn National Gaming, the Caernarvon Township Supervisors and the
members of the TVACDA.

The decisions made need to be sound ones, and those making these decisions must and will be held accountable by the TVACDA and community members. The TVACDA as an organization has several chief concerns with this proposed development as it stands. We are hopeful that our Township Supervisors, along with those representing Penn National Gaming, and the members of the Pennsylvania Gaming Commission, will help us gain some clarity on these issues.

In the event that a dramatic increase in prostitution, human trafficking, or drug abuse takes place, what action plan and services will be in place to address – address and prevent this? What are the planned changes for our local infrastructure to support the enormous increase of traffic that will inevitably occur? Traffic's going to increase on 23 and all of the other arteries.

With all due respect, your presentation did not really go into depth on how you plan on supporting all of that. Will our township – finally, what is the exit strategy for this casino if it fails? Will our town be left with yet another vacant building? Another eyesore? Will our
towship be prepared to offset the loss in revenue
without inflating our taxes to an unrealistic
amount? Who, what and where is a comprehensive plan
B for our community?

In conclusion, the TVACDA will
actively participate in the growth of this
community. And the best way to do that is to reach
out and partner with local and regional planning
experts in addition to developers to see that our
Twin Valley Area remains the desirable region that
it currently is. We want to do this while
preserving our rural, small town heritage as
mentioned in our mission statement. With a healthy
community partnership, we know that this can be
achieved. Thank you for your time.

MS. MANDERINO: Excuse me. Are you
going to give us your -?

MS. GRUNDY: I did. My complete
testimony is in there.

PRESIDING OFFICER: William McGee and
Michelle Raymond on deck. Mr. McGee?

MR. MCGEE: It's submitted online.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay.

Michelle Raymond with Brian McMahon on
deck.
MS. RAYMOND: My name is Michelle, M-I-C-H-E-L-L-E, Raymond, R-A-Y-M-O-N-D. And I'm a Caernarvon resident.

Again, my name is Michelle Raymond. I am a over 20-year resident of Caernarvon Township, and I have a long - I have lifelong ties to the Twin Valley Community. I'm a mother of three children that attend Twin Valley School District. I'm a regular attendee of the Caernarvon Township meetings, at which we have maybe five regular attendees. And I'm a strong supporter of the Twin Valley community.

I'm here today to present a petition for support of the Hollywood Casino Morgantown. In the week of circulating this petition through social media only, we've obtained 156 signatures from a cross section of our community. The petition reads; we, the undersigned, support PA Gaming Control Board in the approval of Penn National Cat 4 Berks License in Caernarvon Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, a/k/a Hollywood Casino Morgantown.

The location of the proposed Hollywood Casino Morgantown, PA Turnpike, 176, and Route 10, will be strategic in the growth of our community. The draw of customers will stimulate the existing
businesses, provide opportunities for new businesses and jobs for our residents, and a larger tax base for Caernarvon Township. Penn National has a history of being a part of the community in which they reside, thus we are eager to work together.

I have an example of some of the comments that people had put on the petition. I am a business owner in Elverson. I'm looking forward to this and it will help bring more business to the existing businesses and much needed revenue to the area. Another one; the casino will allow the community to transition from a drive-through community to a community with destination - as a destination place that people from out of the community will visit. Not only will it generate over 250 new jobs, but it will also bring in new customers for the local small business in the community.

This is just a few. The casino will benefit the community in many more ways that I can fit in this comment section. Another one; I'm aware of - that the casino wishes to build in the area. There are many surrounding towns that also opted in along with Caernarvon. If a casino must be built and be built close to where I live, I would like our
Another one; this says it all. The township to receive the tax revenue.

The casino will be a welcome neighbor and partner in positive community growth. I am very excited about growing Morgantown's economy. This will increase our tax base, bringing jobs, better roads, keep local taxes down. A casino will encourage new business, pump life into the wonderful businesses already here. If it doesn't settle in Caernarvon, it will simply move down the road five miles to a different township, and once again, we will miss the opportunity as a community.

Another one; brings different things to our area. Change is what the town needs, jobs and revenue is what we need and I hope this gets accepted.

Lastly; the casino will be a welcome neighbor and partner in positive community growth. I am very excited about growing Morgantown's economy. This will increase our tax base, bring jobs, better roads, and keep local taxes down. A casino will encourage new businesses and pump life into the wonderful businesses already here. If it doesn't settle in Caernarvon, it will simply move down the road five miles to a different township,
and once again, we will miss the opportunity as a community.

I thank you for letting us have time to say our point of view. I do have copy of the petition, a copy of my documentation. I'll bring that over to you and we're excited for the possibility to improve our economy in this area. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

And if the court reporter will swear Mr. McMahon in.

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BRIAN McMAHON,
CALLED AS A WITNESS IN THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING, AND HAVING FIRST BEEN DULY SWORN, TESTIFIED AND SAID AS FOLLOWS:

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MR. MCMAHON: My name is Brian McMahon, and I'm a business representative for Steamfitters Local Union 420 and we have a satellite office right up the road off of 176 in Flying Hills. I represent 300 members that live in - here in the Berks County area. Our members are steamfitters, pipefitters, pipe welders, and service technicians. This project will put many of them to work.
A lot of redundant things that I will read probably. Casinos spur economic growth, employment, and greater tax revenue to the state and local governments and growth in local retail sales. It lowers unemployment rates in the local area, be it through the construction of the project and by hiring local residents from Berks County to work at the casino.

I live 15 minutes from Valley Forge. I live in Limerick, Pennsylvania. The Valley Forge Casino was built several years back and some local residents were very against it. This casino spurred the Children's Hospital, a half a mile up the road from the casino. It spurred the Valley Forget Golf Course to turn into a mega retail area, restaurants, and places to live. And from what I understand from reading the local newspaper on a daily basis, which is The Mercury, there was no - involving crime, prostitution or drugs that I ever read in the paper at the Valley Forge Casino.

So, in closing, I'd like to say that the Steamfitters Local Union 420 is in favor of building the casino. Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

We are now at the end of our community
group list.

MS. MANDERINO: Madam Chairman, may I make a recommendation? We have 33 people on the individual list. We are here to hear to hear you. You're here and free to take your five minutes, but I need a seventh inning stretch. I don't want anyone to leave the room, but can we take one minute and if you need to, stand up before your legs fall asleep because I did the math, and it's about three more hours.

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(WHEREUPON, A SHORT BREAK WAS TAKEN.)

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PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you. We are now onto our individuals that have registered to speak. We now have 31 individuals. I'm going to try to swear you in, in two groups. So, will these people, as I call your name, stand up to be sworn in? Francis Loughney, Larry Clauser, Janet Caley, Victoria Lingg, Ted Allan, Michele King, Samuel Petersheim, Michael Shoup, Tom Hornberger, Joshua Stoltzfus, Dennis (sic) Harris, Brian Walls, and Lisa Joye. Don't panic if I did not call your name. You are the second group.

So, those of the names I have called, if
you could please raise your right hand to be sworn
by the court reporter.

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(WHEREUPON, WITNESSES SWORN EN MASSE)

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PRESIDING OFFICER: So, we have
Francis Loughney up and Larry Clauser on deck.

MS. LOUGHNEY: Thank you, Madam
Chairman. Fran Loughney, I'm with the Carpenters'
Union. A couple things real quick. I'm here - I'm
here to speak for the casino, for building the
casino. Right now, the Sands in Bethlehem, Mohegan
Sun, Mount Airy Lodge, Harrah's, Penn National's
Hollywood, plus the racetrack, Lucky Lady, Meadows,
Parx, Park Isle (sic), Rivers, and Valley Forge, all
across the state.

One of the things that all these
casinos have in common is they're all economic
engines. They're not just about gambling. There
area restaurants, there are hotels, there's
entertainment. The one casino I have the most
experience with is with the Sands in Bethlehem, I
actually helped build.

I brought a copy of this week's Lehigh
Valley Business. This is something that's put out
by the chamber. And it's a big article about the Sands and having meetings there, the hotels, all the different entertainment options. And it doesn't even talk about gambling. Now, I - I just want to make that point that these just aren't gambling establishments. They're so much more.

They're going to create a great tax base, a lot of revenue, like the slide said earlier, for your police, your fire, your EMTs. You'll be able to affords parks and infrastructure. Can I be allowed - could the people from Building Trades just raise their hand? I want - I want them to see all the people that are here from Building Trades in support of this project.

That's really it. I want to thank you for your time. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

We have Larry Clauser with Janet Caley on deck.

MR. CLAUSER: Yes. The name's Larry Clauser, which is spelled, C-L-A-U-S-E-R. First off, thanks for the privilege to share my thoughts about this mini casino proposal. I believe the plan may already be a done deal. I do realize the state government needs to have revenue to conduct
business. However, will such an operation really generate much in the way of revenue or finances? I see it more as a - more of a just changing ownership, money from hand to hand. A change of ownership.

What most bothers me is the cost to the people that can get ensnared in gambling. What I ask you is the value of an eternal soul. Jesus said it this way, what should profit a man to gain the whole world if he loses his soul. A man I worked with some 40 years ago became entangled in gambling. This activity broke up his family. Later he took his own life. What a tragedy. Have we lost our value for life? I'm afraid so.

Therefore, I want you, who are deciding on this proposal, to realize that indirectly you have the blood of others on your hands. And that's a reality I would not want on my conscience. Thus, I ask you to deny this proposal due to the human costs. The means certainly will not justify the ends.

Martin Luther King, Jr., was quoted to saying these words, our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter. I hope you would agree that life matters. Thank you for
listening.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Janet Caley with Victoria Lingg on deck.

MS. CALEY: Good afternoon. My name is Janet Caley. Caley's spelled C-A-L-E-Y. I'm honored to live here in the beautiful Berks, Caernarvon Township on Swamp Road. Although I've travelled in different parts of the world, I consider this place to be one of the most beautiful areas and truly my home.

For over half a century, I fished in its streams, rode a dirt bike in its fields and swam in its ponds. My husband and I have raised two daughters and a son here. My father was born on the edge of Welsh Mountain on Best Road and roamed the woods catching skunks, walking to a one-room schoolhouse, and watching this historic little town growing up. He's now almost 91 years old and has given me his stamp of approval to speak today.

I do not consider myself to be a political person, but rather a progressive and visionary thinker who has served on various boards over the course of my life, including the West Nantmeal Recreation Board. I prefer, however, being in my special education classroom encountering young
minds and lives, rather than trying to promote my viewpoints.

But because of what I know this place to be and what I believe so passionately, I've chosen to step out of my comfort zone to ask you to please listen today, not just with your ears and business minds, but with your hearts, and for the future of not just our little beloved Morgantown, but for all the future generations to come.

Who are we in Morgantown? It was March 1957 and right here on Mill Road that the Ralph Hertzler Farmer Relief Sale was held. This sale was born from a vision of local pastors to give to the less fortunate. This sale surpassed its financial goals and quickly turned into tri-county project drawing 1,000 attendees from numerous states, exceeding its original fund raising goal by a factor of 17. Soon this farm relief sale burst at its seams and needed to be moved to the Twin Slope Market Grounds in Morgantown in 1969. This relief sale caught the attention of the Pennsylvania Governor, Milton Shapp, because he and his wife fell in love with the freshly-made strawberry pies.

He invited the organization to use the Pennsylvania Farm Building to promote this worthy
cause. Today, this love your neighbor thinking called the Pennsylvania Relief Sale draws thousands of visitors and has donated more than $16.5 million to worldwide relief efforts. This, my friends, is in sharp contrast to the goals of the casino, preying upon the lower income and youth of our communities, raising revenue for a destructive industry to better our communities. I think we can be challenged by the example set by previous generations and leaders in Morgantown to think of constructive ways to raise revenue.

As an educator, so many of us work tirelessly to instill in our students values that motivate and challenge them to create a better world. We want them to understand how the impact of their decisions will influence not just themselves, but the world around them. We honor and promote hands-on activities and serving the community. We teach our students that all that glitters isn't gold and to be aware of the deceptions of false advertising and dubious thinking.

How many of you have looked deeply into the eyes of young people sitting in your classes or visiting in your homes and felt the deeply-rooted hopelessness and pain of children
dealing with parents with addictions? It is heart wrenching. Can we as a community watch the havoc of addictions in our youth and still say the end justifies the means? Almost 22 percent of slot machine users at casinos are in the 18 to 29 age group. Gambling addictions are most likely to occur in the vulnerable age groups of 18 to 24 in lower income families. It does not take a rocket scientist, or a special education teacher, to identify that alcohol, prostitution, and gambling addictions thrive in and around casinos.

As a parent, my goal is to push my children into adulthood by challenging them to think how their giftings could impact the world in life-giving ways. We have just been told of all the job openings available because of the casino being here. A lot of them are short term, and after perusing the Penn National Gaming jobs openings recently, I did indeed see some higher level professional positions, tucked far away, of course, from the 24-hour, seven-day a week shift work that I suspect the majority of the jobs really are, targeting impressionable college-age students to get quick cash from tip-oriented settings inside a very controlled towards profit environment casino floor.
without windows and clocks to hyper focus its victims.

Casinos are neither life giving or sustainable careers. What kind of job is this where workers deal with people literally urinating in their pants because of not wanting to leave the slot machine? New jobs for our community? Is this really the kind of environment and career you want to encourage your children and grandchildren to pursue? I challenge this community to once again draw together as we - today to search and look for more life-giving endeavors that will preserve this peaceful and ideal community in a respected and distinguished way to leave behind a legacy of hope and not a Back to the Future Part II casino scene. I believe we can.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Victoria Lingg with Ted Allan on deck.

MS. LINGG: My name is Tori Lingg. I live in Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County. There's known to be bog turtles out here. I'm not an environmentalist, but you better check for bog turtles. Well, some people - a lady asked me to find her some bog turtles so she can stop something in her neighborhood. I don't think money generated
from this is going to help with the school tax. One of the people here from Penn National Gaming said two percent of the funds would stay local, 54 percent would go to the state. This is so-called revenue, how much, where and how would it be used. My friend lived in Atlantic City. She went to high school there. She said Atlantic City is not a nice place to live, but all the money went away. We have the Turnpike. The Turnpike is too expensive to drive on. You look for an alternative route. I'd like to know where the funds go to. Somebody told me it's mass transit. Many people who gamble can't afford to gamble. I'd like to address Pennsylvania - Penn Gaming, what is the problem and intention of promoting an addictive and non-productive venue like gambling? Last week on February 28th, there was a lady on WEEU in Reading talking about Gamblers Anonymous. We have Alcoholics Anonymous. You are creating circumstances of physical and mental disabilities that taxpayers have to pay for, drugs, alcohol, prostitution. 400,000 people in Pennsylvania are on depressants or medication. There's 70,000 died in the United States in 2016 because of drugs, 49,000 of this was opioids. The
long terms of these things like gambling, drugs is addictive and it's negative.

You have to pay for police and the ambulance. You have mental concerns, anxiety, unstable people, more costs. The State is gauging the - the possibilities of marijuana and recreational drugs. I do not see how Mr. Wolf and Mr. Fetterman can go around and do this when they are responsible for the well-being of the Commonwealth.

Now, my friend, their house is all gone. It's all torn down, but it was out in the middle of where this development would be, right off of Route 10. I would like to know - I've not heard one thing how this might affect surrounding townships. Gary Elston talked about the roads. I'm talking about the farm community. I live in a farm community and I help my farmers 100 percent. I live in the Amish community. How's this going to impact them?

Several years ago, there was a kid I know who was Amish got involved with drugs. Right now he's 40 years old. He lives in the township I live in, he's good for nothing. And I - another lady lived in Churchtown, she blew it on drugs. She
set the house on fire, burnt the house down. They were living in the hotel over here for a while, now we don't know where they are, but she blew it on drugs. She has two kids. One is 14, one is about 13.

A friend of mine was married to the grandson of a famous World War II general. He got on drugs. His sister is dead. He was in jail for six months and his mother paid over $100,000 to get him out of jail. And right now he's in a rehab center.

My friend up at - or up in Oley, his sister blew it on drugs. This out here would attract a fringe community. Now, I'd like to know what - how you're going to protect the agriculture community. I don't want this spilling into Lancaster County. Thank you. My neighbors are all Amish, and I stand beside them 100 percent.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Ted Allan with Michele King on deck.

MR. ALLAN: Good afternoon. My name is Ted Allan, T-E-D, A-L-L-A-N. Thank you for the opportunity this afternoon to share my remarks. I've lived in this area for about four years, I come with perhaps a little bit different perspective than
many in this room. I moved here from the State of Ohio. And remember when I came to Berks County, the realtor telling me, he said people in this county have deep roots.

And as my wife and I were thinking about a place to stay, we met with two men here locally in the area and one of the things that stuck with me to this day is they said, you know, this is a community where people know each other on a first-name basis. It's a deeply conservative community with many Christians. They said it's not uncommon in local restaurants to see people giving thanks for their food to Almighty God. And those things resonated with me. As a father, as a husband, those were deeply important to me.

I'm deeply concerned about the impact that this casino would have in our community. The things that caused me to move here and choose Morgantown as a place to live and raise my family are now in jeopardy. I have family and friends who were considering moving here and I can tell you that this changes everything. And if I had to do this over, I would not choose to live in this community, had I known that this casino may come here. I would choose a place further away. My children attend a
local school for which I am extremely grateful, Conestoga Christian School. But I have deep concerns at the impact this casino will have.

This is a small community and you know the size of this casino is going to have significant impacts. We've heard much of the economic benefits this casino would bring, however, I referred to a study that the National Gambling Impact - I'm sorry, the Commission Report at the federal level, that they did in 1999, studying the impacts of casinos. And I quote, they said the central issue is not whether the economic benefits are worth it, but rather the social impacts that arise with respect to casinos. And I can tell you that they are simply not worth it. You know, the negative social impacts will affect this community. It will bring in crime. It will impact the family in negative ways with respect to divorce, bankruptcies. It will promote addiction.

This casino or casinos in general typically tend to focus on that two percent of the population that comes in, but generate the most revenue for this casino. They prey on those types of people. Very negative from a social impact standpoint.
I'm certainly all for economic growth. I recognize that this area needs that. However, it's not on the backbones of those who cannot afford it. And nor is it on the backbone of anybody, quite frankly, who would contribute in this manner.

As the Holy Scriptures say the love of money is the root of all evil. The Bible teaches that those who covet after it will pierce themselves through with many sorrows. And I fear that there will be many who will be pierced through with many sorrows here in this local area as a result if this comes.

We've heard here today that they promote diversity and want to hire people that reflect their community, but what I clearly heard here today, again, having only lived here for four years, is that this does not reflect the morals and the values of this community. And if our visitors here today truly valued that, they would not choose to bring this casino to this local community.

So I - I'm here today, obviously, to share my perspective as somebody who's not lived here a long time. I've lived in many different places in my life, but I can tell you this will have very negative repercussions for a long time to come.
It will impact my children, my grandchildren. And you know, I've heard it said before that things have a cost, and if the cost of the local community here, if you're interested in $1.6 million, the negative repercussions that will come with that amount of money simply are not worth it and I urge you not to do it. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Michele King with Samuel Petersheim on deck.

MS. KING: Good evening. My name is Michele King with one L. Last name, K-I-N-G. I live in Morgantown, Pennsylvania, Honey Brook Township. And I will be speaking tonight on behalf of those who reside in not just Caernarvon Township, Berks County, but all the surrounding Twin Valley communities, which includes Caernarvon and Robeson Township, New Morgan Borough in Berks County. In Chester County, West Nantmeal, Honey Brook Township, Honey Brook and Elverson Boroughs, as stated in the signed petition that I will present to you at the end of my time tonight.

I am a wife, a mother and I spent the last 30 years of my life working with families and children in our community through local churches and the local school districts and private schools in
our sector. As I proceed, please know when I refer to we or community, I am referring to those signees in the seven municipalities that make up the Twin Valley School District and any other municipalities represented by the signees of the petition with the exception of the 14 people who signed in favor of the casino.

Before I begin, I'd like to thank you, Gaming Commission, for being here this evening. Representatives from Penn National Gaming, we appreciate you coming to our community to hear what we have to say tonight. The Township Supervisors, we appreciate the leadership that you give to this community and we just ask that you hear our hearts as well. To those previous speakers and those yet to speak, to the residents and the community and the media who have attended tonight, I thank you for your time and your investment in our community.

This particular petition was created and launched on February 19th after a local meeting on February 17th in response to the January 30th announcement of tonight's hearing. It states three main concerns for our community. A casino will target the most vulnerable of both our Twin Valley residents and those in our neighboring rural
communities, create a burden on our local municipalities to provide the infrastructure needed, and hinder future development as consistent with the values of our residents. I believe many tonight have already adjusted - or sorry, have already addressed many of those concerns.

For a casino to succeed it is a known fact that the community must embrace it. In just 13 short days we have collected over 1,000 signatures from people who currently live, have lived, are considering living, work or do business in our community, all seven municipalities represented. As of this morning, after factoring out any duplicates and those 14 in favor, there are a total of 1,029 signatures opposed to a casino anywhere in our communities.

After analyzing - after analyzing the signatures last evening, which there were many more that came in today that I did not have time to analyze, over 250 of those residents reside right here in Caernarvon Township, Berks County. 549 of those residents reside in the surrounding Twin Valley School District communities, the seven municipalities that I mentioned earlier.

Of important note, we counted each
line on the petition whether there was a husband and 
a wife on the same line as one entity, so therefore, 
there are some entities that represent two people. 
I understand there were 156 signatures presented in 
favor. That is a dim comparison, I believe, when I 
look at it, and I believe my community members would 
agree that that does not speak as loudly as 1,000. 

A project of this magnitude when 
proposed in what - a most liberal conclusion, my 
most liberal conclusion is a fringe town, should 
involve the surrounding communities as well and not 
just the municipality where the proposed development 
is to occur. As many from our community have 
already addressed most of these concerns, I would 
like to address something a little different after 
having read all the comments on the petition. 

The residents are concerned about the 
impact this will have on the change in our community 
in a way that does not embrace who we truly are, as 
well as the concern for where the revenue will come 
from. Let's call this revenue what it truly is. It 
is loss. The revenue promised to Caernarvon 
Township of one percent and two percent is only from 
table games and slots. Our community does not wish 
to grow economically based on the losses of others.
Oh my gracious.

We are not an urban area, nor a suburban area, which is where casinos typically grow and thrive. After researching our community, we do not line up with Penn National Gaming's other properties. They went to Springettsbury Township for another proposed mini casino. Their township, we must encompass all of Twin Valley community in order to compare at all to Springettsbury Township.

Our community encompasses 88 miles and we are - 88 square miles. We are a rural community by definition. And we are not an urban or a suburban community as Reading would be.

To all of those who spoke for the trades and Berks County, many of us wish it wouldn’t be in Berks County at all, because of many of the reasons mentioned. But we would ask that you consider not building here. And I do have that petition for you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Samuel Petersheim and Michael Shoup on deck.

MR. PETERSCHEIM: Good afternoon, my name is Samuel Petersheim, last name, P-E-T-E-R-S-H-E-I-M. Thank you for the opportunity to share.
I'm a resident of Elverson, just east of here. My wife and I have three young children. I own property in Morgantown along West Main Street and it's a house my great-grandfather built circa 1912. I grew up in this community. I went to kindergarten at the Caernarvon Elementary School diagonally across the street from here, which is now an apartment complex. I attended private and public schools here.

My father, who is now 90 years old, also grew up in this community, attending a one-room school house on Best Road and later Caernarvon High School, the same high school - the same school I went to and kindergarten. When he was between the ages of 12 to 15 years old, times were rough economically and in the summer, he boarded on a farm working mostly for lodging and food. That farm, owned by Steven Kurtz, was just a few hundred yards north of here, now the site of the proposed casino.

During that time, he - he, similar to hundreds of others in the community, were learning the value of hard work, sharing with others in need, family values, honesty, trustworthiness and being content with less than abundant wealth. That house and barn are long gone now, largely forgotten.
However, what have not been forgotten in this community are the ethics and values. We've long been a community - a sharing community looking out for others in need.

For example, the Annual Pennsylvania Relief Sale held in Harrisburg, which Miss Caley explained had its origins in this town starting on the late Ralph Hertzler farm just south of here and where the guttered school now sits, and eventually moving to the PA Farm Show Complex. Proceeds of that sale have gone all over the world to help those in dire need, the destitute, the hungry, the homeless, and the most vulnerable among us.

Might I also add the volunteer firemen in this community, thanking them for the work they do, the volunteer work they do.

And from its origins, this community has always been hardworking and industrious, producing many products like charcoal to fuel the old lime kiln furnaces, grains to feed hungry mouths, dairy products, produce fruits, and more recently, iron ore, truck bodies, fertilizer spreaders, titanium ingots, vinyl windows and more.

What kind of product does a casino produce?
Absolutely nothing. No product that creates wealth. It is simply the exchange of money from one hand to another. To put it in the simplest of terms, it's like cutting off one end of a blanket and sewing it on the other in an effort to make it longer.

When looking at it from a macro perspective, nothing is gained, no wealth is being added to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Now, some of you are probably thinking, well, it's in the service and entertainment sector. Well, yes it is, but what would it - what would it bring? It would bring in a service that poses the greatest amount of risk to the most vulnerable among us, the elderly, those with low income, and the children of those who have problems with addiction. That's not the kind of risk we want in this type of community. We seek to help people with those struggles.

Other jobs here have associated risks. For example, farming is considered to be a high-risk occupation. But the thing with commercialized gambling is that the risk is disproportionately higher for only one type of people over another. In that respect, you could say commercialized gambling is predatory.

Our fathers, our forefathers had
wisdom in the founding of this State. They knew the
dangers of commercialized gambling. It wasn't until
recently that it - especially slot machines were
permitted within our boundaries. For years they
were not allowed. The metropolitan areas were
mostly responsible for its legalization. Then some
crazy bill was passed, from what I hear, in 2017
that required townships, not to opt in, but to opt
out if they didn't want a casino. It gave us only
two months over the holiday season to respond to
something that was contrary to the longstanding
norm.

What shenanigans, con artistry to the
highest degree and at all levels from - from the
legislative offices in Harrisburg, right down to the
slot machines that are programmed to take
psychological advantage of the player, leading them
to believe they're going to win big on the next play
and swindling the money out of them.

Because of our - because our
supervisors, and thank them for their - their
service, because they made their best decision, but
it's different than the sentiment of the people
here. We're imploring you to stop this type of
activity from coming here anywhere else in our
region - or anywhere else in our region, especially just north of here in the township that was made by the State, which someone else alluded to.

Our community is not interested in activity that poses a great risk to the most vulnerable among us. Just like that barn and house I spoke about earlier are long gone, we all, too, will pass away. What kind of legacy will we leave behind us? What will we be remembered for by our children that we have allowed this type of activity to a place like this? I hope that's not what we want to be remembered for. Stop this from happening here or anywhere else in our region. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

Michael Shoup and Tom Hornberger on deck.

MR. SHOUP: Michael Shoup, but you can say Shoup (changes pronunciation). S-H-O-U-P. Thank you for allowing us to speak. Gentlemen, thank you for the presentation you gave. Boy, what a pipe dream. Reality though, when people come to your casinos, you don't build them to give money away, you build them to take money and to make money. And the other thing is that -

AUDIENCE MEMBER: That's right. Call
it what it is.

MR. SHOUP: traffic is not only come from the Turnpike and 76 - 176, come on gentlemen. As a former township supervisor of Caernarvon, Lancaster, the adjoining township, where's the negative impacts? Everything was positive that you guys showed us. Shame on you.

One of the things that we need to do as a community, when we're a township supervisor, we're elected to serve the people, not to lord over them. We're elected to serve our - our members of our community. And gentlemen of the union, thank you for coming. Some of you came a distance. I know you came here in support of the casino. I think there's a lot more people here from the community, opposed to it. I'll keep it short so that somebody else can have a little more time, but thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Tom Hornberger. Tom Hornberger? How about Joshua Stoltzfus, with Denise Harris on deck.

MR. STOLTZFUS: Hi, I'm Josh Stoltzfus, that's S-T-O-L-T-Z-F-U-S. I am here as a member of the local water authority, although I'm not representing the water authority, but I just want to make note that we have spent a significant
amount of money in infrastructure improvements over the last few years. And as stated in the article in the Reading Eagle on Sunday, over 19,000 gallons a day in additional usage would be a significant boost to our revenues and there are a lot of old infrastructure in the community that needs upgrading and that would help a lot to go towards that.

That being said, I just want to make a couple of points that I've heard nobody talk about. As far as traffic issues, if anybody's ever been to the Penn National Hollywood Casino in Grantville, there's a two-lane road that goes to it, off of 81, a two-lane road. I've never sat in traffic going to that location. And also, it is surrounded by farms as far as the eye can see. So, it's not in an urban area. There's not a lot of loitering. I've never seen any crime in that area. It's actually a very nice facility. There are other things to do at casinos other than gambling. There's entertainment, there's shows, there's restaurants.

I've also been to the Sands up in Bethlehem and they've done a nice job as far as improving that area as well. There's a lot of business going in there, hotels, there's an event center. You know, without those facilities, those
buildings would just be sitting vacant.

So I just wanted to make those couple
of points. Again, I'll - I'll be short. I won't
take my full time, but thank you for listening.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Denise Harris.

Denise Harris?

Okay. How about Brian Walls? Mr.

Walls? Lisa Joye?

MS. JOYE: My name is Lisa Joye,
L-I-S-A, J-O-Y-E. I live on Willow Glen Road,
Caernarvon Township, Berks County. Thank you for
the opportunity to speak today. I am not in favor
of a casino in our community. I have many concerns,
but I will address only three of them.

First, there are people that I love
and care about, both family and friends, in my
community that are struggling. For some of these
family and friends, the family unit has fallen apart
or is falling apart. For some, there is a struggle
with mental illness. For others of these people I
care about, addictive behaviors are already present
and a casino would only tap into these addictive
behaviors. The byproducts of a casino, such as
gambling addiction, breakdown of the family and
potential increase in crime do not build up my
community or the people about which I care.

My second concern is the relationship between casinos and human trafficking. To be clear, I am not saying that casinos cooperate with traffickers, however, there is a cause and effect that needs to be seriously considered. A casino can provide an atmosphere conducive to human trafficking. Traffickers use casinos as a base to sell human beings for sex. Trafficking victims, most of whom are women and girls, deserve our protection. I do not want my community, through a casino, to have any part in providing an operating base for the sexual exploitation of trafficking victims.

Finally, a casino does not fit with Morgantown or the surrounding communities because it does not represent who we are. We are a community of hardworking people. We are a community filled with people that care about our families and care about our neighbors. This community has many people of faith and great churches. As I drive throughout the area, I see successful small businesses, reliable family-owned businesses, manufacturing companies, and family farms. A casino should not be a part of our landscape because it does not fit in
with us. Thank you for your time.

PRESIDING OFFICER: I am now to the second half of my list. As I call your name if you can please stand to then be sworn by the court reporter.


Can we have the court reporter swear these - this group.

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(WHEREUPON, WITNESSES SWORN EN MASSE)

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PRESIDING OFFICER: We will start with Ben Fisher, with Steve Beckman on deck. No Ben Fisher? How about Steve Beckman with Geoffrey Litwin on - on deck.

MR. BECKMAN: Guess we have to switch to good evening somewhere in here. My name is Steve Beckman, S-T-E-V-E, B-E-C-K-M-A-N.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you.

Although I would like to, I didn't come here today
to beg the PGC to stop this casino, to save us. I didn't come here for that. I didn't come with statistics. I didn't come to make a morality plea.

It's true, I - I don't want the casino. That is true. And I suspect, as we've seen in some of the numbers today, I suspect a properly inclusive poll of our area would support that, that the vast majority don't want it here. But I think you're probably steeled against that and you probably already know that.

So I came here today assuming that this decision may already been made and I came here to tell you that we're ready. We're not in agreement. We're not supportive, but we're ready and here's what I mean.

I'm speaking today as the Chair of the Board of the Honey Brook Christian Academy. It's a small Christian school that meets in a church just few miles from here, where teachers work every year without any pay, to stand in the gap for students that grow up in a culture of broken homes, abuse, poverty, and addiction, all the very things that are going to follow your casino into this community. That school, and others like it, stands ready to care for those left in the lurch of this casino.
Also speaking today is a member of Calvary Chapel of Honey Brook, which is a small church planted just nearby the school to share the love of Jesus with a community that finds nothing but hopelessness in the shiny things of this world, which are the very things this casino will use as an advertising lure to draw people in through its doors.

Everybody knows the potential things that - that come in the wake of a casino. Our church, and others like it, stands ready to care for those that are going to be left in the dark.

I'm also speaking today as a volunteer with U-Turn for Christ, which is a discipleship and reentry ministry for men and women trapped in a never-ending cycle of addictions. U-Turn was planted here near this community to offer hope and salvation to people that have hit rock bottom, people that are ready to turn to Jesus with nothing in their hands but a broken life ruined by the very sort of addictions that will thrive in the shadow of this casino. U-Turn and other ministries like it stand ready to share - to care rather for those left broken by this casino. But most of all, I'm standing here today as somebody that's not ashamed
to self-identify as a born-again Christian. And I know well the God that saved me personally from a life of addiction. That's why I don't despair over this. See, we're ready for what's coming, not because we're good people, but because we know a good God. And if he allows this casino to come to this town, we can stand assured that he has already equipped his church to deal with it.

We're going to care for people that can't be helped by any other means. The people that to all the rest of this world maybe be nameless, faceless, not important, or how's it said, negligible, are precisely the opposite to God. See — and if he allows Penn National to plant this casino in our backyard, it's because he wants to use it to save the people upon which this casino will prey.

To be clear, I don't want this casino here. I believe it'll forever change this community for the worse. I believe government has a responsibility to use its power to stop casino gambling, not to sponsor it and endorse it. When this casino opens its doors, it's a safe bet to me that some of my favorite local establishments are going to close theirs forever, because this casino
is going to be built to keep people in, not to send
them into the community where their money could do
some good for us.

We're going to see our local eateries
and shops replaced by pawn shops and massage
parlors. Our children growing up in what's been
called the gateway to Lancaster County are going to
grow up in a different kind of gateway. Addictions
are going to get worse, not better. The result
being what it always is, broken lives.

All this collateral damage you have
the power to stop. Those that could have and should
have said no to this casino are going to have to go
to bed each night with the weight of that decision
on their consciences. But I won't despair when it
comes. I'll stand with those that are ready to care
for and love the lost souls upon which this casino
will prey.

God loves those people enough to send
his son to die for them and that's good enough for
me.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Geoff Litwin with
Stephanie Gibson on deck.

MR. LITWIN: My name's Geoff Litwin,
G-E-O-F-F-R-E-Y, Litwin, L-I-T-W-I-N. I'm a proud
member and officer of IBEW Local 743. I've been involved in the community by volunteering in this area as a coach, Greater Governor Mifflin League member, Reading United Labor Council, and Chair of the City of Reading Electrical Board.

I have lived in this county my entire life and have been working in the construction industry for 30 years. I've seen a lot of change in Berks County. And I know it's a lot of this area, but it is Berks County. We have a lot of - have had a lot of - lost good, large companies with great paying jobs, and I see Berks County as a positive county without much growth.

Our neighboring counties, particularly Lancaster, has brought in business, entertainment, a job surplus that brought a construction boom and a flourish of skilled workforce that we have not seen in our area. This casino will create 275 construction jobs, as well as 250 permanent jobs as we repeatedly hear.

With the approval of the Gaming License, this local community, as well as the County, will benefit with an increase of local business and tax revenue. The community can use this revenue as they see fit to better the
community.

The casino is an entertainment investment in our community that will attract revitalization to local business and restaurants. This could help Berks County and the surrounding community to revitalize and flourish again. With the proposed casino so close to the Turnpike exit, it really shouldn't have much issue on the traffic burden. The site is also very close to town and can draw new people to the businesses and the culture of the area.

When I coached softball in this area, I frequently patronized this town's local business and restaurants, but nothing in the last few years has drawn me to this wonderful community again. I know myself and my family will visit this casino and we'll make a point to visit the local business and restaurants I patronized and enjoyed in the past.

I support the Gaming License and this casino project, but on a side note, hearing what everybody's saying, not everybody - not everybody that's going to visit this casino is terrible. Drug addiction, gambling addiction, anything like that. The construction workers, somebody had mentioned earlier that we're - it brought drugs, violence and
crime, whatever it is. We are members of the community as well, and we - we are your coaches, we're your Boy Scout and Girl Scout leaders. We're everything in your community. We're also a part of it.

So I just - on a side note, it - it kind of disturbs me that, because we didn't choose an office job or something in that aspect, construction workers and the apprenticeships that - that we've done, we've - we've turned people that really didn't have an opportunity in life and gave them a very good opportunity for a career.

So I thank you very much and I support the casino.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Stephanie Gibson with Glen Helman on deck.

MS. GIBSON: My name is Stephanie Gibson - my name is Stephanie Gibson, S-T-E-P-H-A-N-I-E, G-I-B-S-O-N.

I'm a mom. Simple as that. I'm here today to voice my opposition to the planning of the Penn National Casino in Morgantown, PA, Caernarvon Township. I am a longtime resident of this community. I've lived in the same house in Elverson, Elverson Borough, Caernarvon Township since 1994.
My husband and I decided to settle here for the small-town feel and its sense of community and friendship.

We have so far raised all four of our children here in this quaint little community. I have some genuine concerns for this proposed casino at Penn - Penn National Casino and its location.

Being a mother of four, it's my job to protect and to see safely, my kids. That's my priority. I have big concerns as to the changes that will come to the safety of our children, elderly in our quaint little community as a whole. This is not fear mongering. This is simply a fact that the casino being built in any area will bring higher crime rates, which means - I'm sorry. This is simply a fact that the casino being built in any area will bring higher crime rates, which will probably bring desperate, shady people along with it.

Being part of a community as quaint - this quaint means we look for one another. We look - we look forward to being together. We know one another. We know just about everyone. It's - maybe not their names all the time, but we definitely recognize their faces. We will no longer have that
sense of safety or community tightness with so many strangers or transients passing through.

I have some questions for the Caernarvon Board. What if? What if some - something negative does happen? Do we have guarantees from Penn National? Do we have guarantees from the Caernarvon Township that safety will be top priority for our quaint community, no matter the cost? How will situations be handled? Do we have guarantees that the provisions will be made for those individuals that had a negative impact due to the casino? Will the Penn National officials or Caernarvon Township give help to those who have maybe become desperate due to their lifestyle, or these people become poor, unfortunate souls with nowhere to turn, except our quaint little community.

Why did Caernarvon Township opt in before the community had a chance to read, understand and digest this huge risk and undertaking to our community? I have read multiple articles on communities before and after casino life. All pretty much say the same thing; crime goes up. And it's - and it's the community that suffers, not the casino.
Penn National has plenty of money to protect itself from who's going to - but who is going to protect the community and its citizens who have lived here most of our lives? Who is going to make sure your sons and daughters don't become part of the problem or a statistic or a victim? Who is going to make - what about the community pool right next door? Who's going to protect all those children swimming, having a fun, oblivious time with their friends, while someone next door is watching them?

What if the casino fails? Who will protect the community then? Does Penn National or Caernarvon Township have a plan, a plan B? This community needs to be protected, whether the casino goes in our not. This community needs guarantees in writing for all the what-ifs.

National Penn (sic), you're absolutely correct in your research. You did a great job. This small town and community is the perfect place, the perfect place to plop a casino. It's open, under developed, quiet, quaint, major highways dump you right to the mouth of the proposed lot. Plenty of room for growth and you have a enough money to push the deal through because not many will argue. Or at least you thought.
After all, think of all the new businesses and the money brought in the area, or at least you think they'll come. This is a huge win-win for Penn National, but for Caernarvon Township and its quaint little community we worked so hard to keep all these years -

PRESIDING OFFICER: Ms. Gibson.

MS. GIBSON: - this will be a huge loss.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Ms. Gibson, your time is up. If you'd like to submit your comments -

MS. GIBSON: I am one concerned - I'm one concerned mom, -

PRESIDING OFFICER: Ms. Gibson? Ms. Gibson?

MS. GIBSON: - but I know I speak for many -

PRESIDING OFFICER: Ms. Gibson.

MS. GIBSON: - who just can't speak publically. We do not want this casino.

PRESIDING OFFICER: We will now suspend the hearing.

MS. WHITE: Good evening. My name is Rachel, R-A-C-H-E-L, White, like the color. I currently reside in Cochranville, Pennsylvania, but until four years ago, I lived in Elverson. I grew up there, I've been a part of this community my entire life as a student, as a teacher, as a church member. This area will forever be my home, and for that reason, I felt compelled to speak at this hearing, and I thank you for allowing me to do so.

I oppose the casino for many reasons, but I will address two of them today, local commerce and culture. I am in full support of developing the township in a way that will provide more revenue and jobs. I want to see Morgantown and the surrounding area flourish. But I believe there are much better ways to do this than by building a casino. We need to flourish, but a casino is not that option.

The economic benefit being touted many - most that I've heard is that a casino will revitalize the township. I believe there are circumstances when casinos revitalize townships. I do not believe the proposed Morgantown Casino is one of those cases. Alan Mallach wrote an article, Casinos and Cities: Can They Live Together? It outlines the ways to maximize casino benefits in a
township. And of the worst-case scenario, he says putting a casino on an unused site outside a city center near an interstate highway exit may minimize traffic and crime effects on the city, but at the cost of essentially eliminating the possibility of positive, economic spinoff effects. This is exactly what Penn National's proposing.

The impact study says the traffic study commissioned by Penn National has identified the majority of trips associated with visits to the casino will be accessing the interstate on-off ramps of I-76. Casino visitors will not leave to look for entertainment in Morgantown, nor will they pass local businesses on the way in if the impact study is as they say. And if it is not, then it will significantly impact infrastructure.

Since the casino will include a restaurant and food court, there will be no need for visitors to leave the casino to find food. We have a great deal of locally-owned restaurants. These restaurants will most likely lose local customers to the casino eateries. However, more concerning to me than the questionable promise of economic stimulus is the almost certain erosion of the fabric of this community, which I believe the purpose of this
meeting is to assess whether this is an appropriate place for the casino, whether it matches the community, and it does not.

There's a rich history in our community of neighbors helping neighbors. This is publically demonstrated through organizations like the Twin Valley Food Pantry, U-Turn, which was mentioned, Neighbors Caring and Sharing, and the free counseling and numerous support groups offered at various churches. A casino would be in stark contrast to this heritage, which has been mentioned over and over tonight.

Even teenagers can see this contrast. I'm a teacher. I'm a math teacher, but if there are significant events happening locally, nationally or globally, I share them with my students to help them remind them that they're part of a larger community. Last week I mentioned that - to my high school class that the township would be holding a meeting to discuss the possibility of a casino coming to Morgantown, and their collective immediate response was what, a casino in Morgantown? That doesn't fit. That doesn't match. It's Amish community here.

If 15 and 16-year-olds can immediately see the incongruity of bringing a casino here, then
the Gaming Control Board must seriously consider whether a casino is in the best interest of this community. We are a community built on hard work and caring for one another. Casinos do not foster that kind of fellowship. Rather they encourage isolation and deception through slot machines designed to trap people into their world, card tables designed to make you suspicious of everyone else. None of that matches the ideologies of the Tri-County area.

Since childhood, I have valued the small town feel of Morgantown, Elverson and the surrounding communities. Growing up, we never locked the car doors when we were at local places. We even left our keys in the car at home because there was no threat of theft. Though this area has seen tremendous population growth since I was a child, it is still a safe place.

And I agree with the statement on Caernarvon Township's website that the township is a highly-desirable location for families with children, but gambling addiction destroys families, with a national rate of approximately two to three percent of the population having a gambling problem. And 750 proposed slot machines, the proposed casino
will have about 20 problem gamblers each time they're at maximum capacity.

Considering that addictions of each of these people effect spouses, children, parents and others, we are talking about hundreds and, over the course of time, thousands of people whose lives would be irreparably damaged by our supposed attempt to better the community. This is not the Morgantown I have known and loved, and it's not the direction I and many others here want to see the community take.

I appeal to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to deny the application to build a casino in Caernarvon Township and the surrounding communities, and I implore the Board of Supervisors of Caernarvon Township to be more creative than taking the get-rich-quick route of earning revenue that will have no long-lasting social benefit.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Kate Shuhler with Kristen Petersheim - Kristen Petersheim on deck.

MS. SHUHLER: Good evening. I am Kate Shuhler. I am a resident of Morgantown, Caernarvon, Berks County.

Casinos are often sold to the public as a net positive for tax revenue generation, job creation and economic development. However, the
experiences seen in areas such as Atlantic City and
Camden do not fully support the thesis that
legalized gambling offers much economic benefit to
the local community. Instead, we know there will be
real law enforcement and societal costs that will be
borne by Morgantown tax payers and our children.

We will have to face an inflow of
criminal elements and cope with a quantifiable
increase in drug addiction, organized prostitution,
and human trafficking. These costs will likely be
substantial and require community, commonwealth, and
NGO resourcing.

Of particular interest to me is the
need to prepare an organized response to the
trafficking of humans into communities following
casino constructions. There is a growing body of
research which clearly connects casinos in the
sexual exploitation of underage youth.

Youth Spark is leading non-profit
dedicated to rescuing youth at high risk of
exploitation. They posted an article on February
8th of this year from Dr. Alex Trudeau. The study
was conducted in the Metro-Atlanta area. He stated;

law enforcement agencies, victim service providers
and public policy advocates have been working
closely together over the last decade to combat the
problem of child sex trafficking in Atlanta.

While we understandably sympathize
with and focus our attention on the young victims of
trafficking, the underlying problem facing our
region has less to do with children and more to do
with the men who offend them. Because child sex
trafficking is a transactional form of child abuse,
we must evaluate its causes and solutions from an
economic framework where the supply is trafficking
victims and the demand is men who buy them for sex.

In this framework, there will be more
victimization if there is more demand. Conversely,
the only way to reduce victimization is to lessen
demand. It's through this economic lens that we can
say with near certainty that adding casino gambling
will increase sex trafficking to one degree or
another.

One source reference for this
conclusion was the result of a fascinating study
conducted by the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.
The study surveyed over 6,100 members of the general
public residing in the Greater Las Vegas area. An
analysis of the survey clearly provided significant
results that patrons of casinos were 17 percent more
likely than the average survey respondent to have paid for sex in the prior year.

The problem gamblers were 260 percent more likely to indulge in this unsafe behavior. This connects prostitution and gambling and explains why prostitution rates skyrocket near casinos, with human trafficking as an inevitable byproduct of the need to bring supply and demand into the casino.

Per Dr. Trudeau, though it was not the study's primary aim, the researchers nonetheless documented trafficked children obtaining customers directly from the nearby casino.

Love 146 is a leading human trafficking victim rescue organization. This is just one of the organizations I, along with others, will insist our area utilize for educating the community if a casino is built here. One of their key missions involves training hospitality staff in casinos and hotels on how to identify and report suspected trafficking victims.

They have stated, human trafficking has increasingly gained our attention over the last few years as perhaps the most important human rights issue of our time. Often we envision trafficking happening in the developing world, but not here in
the United States. In 2016, the National Human Trafficking Hotline received over 26,000 calls of suspected incidents of human trafficking. Traffickers often market their victim on the internet and sometimes use unwitting casinos and hotels as places of exploitation.

Casinos and hotels are also used as a home base for traffickers to post online ads for in-calls using the hotel room or casinos as the meeting place for the trafficked minor and the buyer of sex.

I and many other residents have asked questions and voiced concerns regarding the plans for this casino. Our local elected officials have remained silent, before and after they opted in to being a location. If this is built in Morgantown or in our surrounding area, we will be watching closely, asking questions, and demanding very specific plans on how Penn National, state, and local officials will handle the inevitable rise in negative elements which will come to our area.

The house always wins, but at what cost? Our community should not pay the price if this proposed casino is built and fails. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Kristen Petersheim
with Shawn Brubacher on deck.

**MS. PETERSHEIM:** My name is Kristen Petersheim, K-R-I-S-T-E-N, P-E-T-E-R-S-H-E-I-M.

My name is Kristen - sorry, that's what I just said. I was born and raised in Morgantown, Caernarvon, Lancaster. My husband grew up five miles away on the other side of Caernarvon, Berks, in Elverson, West Nantmeal Township. And that's where we currently reside with our children.

I am opposed to the proposed mini casino in Morgantown, though I admit, I find it very hard to call it mini, considering the size of the proposed building and the amount of gambling that will be allowed there.

As you may know, and I hope you do know, this is a town split between counties. And as I'm sure you're also aware, townships and other jurisdictions in Pennsylvania were given a very brief time frame, just under two months, to opt out of being a casino location. In spite of this, and it being over Thanksgiving and Christmas, the entire County of Lancaster managed to opt out. That is extraordinary. And what is done in response to that? They just sneak right over the Lancaster County line, pick a town that's even partially located in
Lancaster County, and plop a casino.

It's my understanding that the state cares so much about the interests of existing casinos that they will allow them to block any new casinos being built within 25 miles. But what about the interests of Pennsylvania's townships and boroughs? Does the state care about our interests and not having a casino within 25 miles?

If it's too much for us to receive equal consideration under the law, could we have a ten-mile radius? Perhaps we can just get one-fifth of the consideration the existing casinos receive. Could we have a five-mile radius? Could we even have just 5,000 feet?

On Penn National's webpage for quote, responsible gambling, end quote, they discuss many risks associated with gambling and for the sake of time I will address only one of those here today. Unattended minors. What Penn National is selling is so addictive that apparently some parents will just leave their children in the car, for who knows how long, while they go inside to get their fix. We don't want a business selling something so dangerous that they have to have special policies in place to try to prevent the abuse and neglect of children
that would otherwise occur. Why is this something we want in Morgantown? Why is this something we want to endorse in exchange for the promise of maybe lower taxes? And even so, that's not money I would want any part of.

In a November 18 edition of the Pottstown Mercury paper, Jeff Morris of Penn National is quoted as saying quote, the proposed 80,000 square foot facility will be visible as vehicles approach from all directions - all directions, end quote. Visible from all directions. I know some regions might love the Hollywood feel, but that's not the kind of landmark we want. A casino is not a good representation of our community, as I know you've heard today. And it is not what we want for our signature business here.

We oppose this because we love our community. We love our neighbors and we even care about our fellow Pennsylvanians traveling by on the Turnpike. The excuse, it's just going to happen somewhere so we might as well get some money from it, just isn't good enough. We are a better community than that, and I would ask that this Board consider the interests of the people that live here and what we want for our home area. We are not
opposed to all development, but we are adamantly opposed to this one. Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Shawn Brubacher?
Alfred - with Alfred Pusey on deck.

MR. HOPKINS: Eaton Hopkins,

One of my many concerns is the significant amount of disruption that this potentially will have. There's a very quickly - in this area. There's a very quickly growing wave in the community that is strong - that is in strong opposition to the casino. It's really just starting to get organized, as you can see tonight.

I'm concerned about taking a nice, quiet, family, tourist-attracting community and now putting us on the map and the news because of protests and picketers during the construction process and if it's built, even after the casino opens. There's a quiet, but exponentially growing, resistance on the ground that will not let this go even after this meeting.

That resistance feels like the whole process has, frankly, been underhanded from the purposeful, under-the-radar approval process that
almost no one locally knew about to scheduling a meeting at four o'clock on a Monday afternoon that would be very difficult for many people that work for a living to get to. As a result, people that typically quietly go about their business are, quite frankly, worked up and organized in opposition.

Based upon conversations, meetings, conference calls, et cetera that I've had that have just started in the last ten days, the opposition that's here is insignificant compared to what is coming over the weeks and months ahead. Many people who are up in arms about this casino in their backyard were unable to be here because of jobs and other obligations, but nevertheless, plan to be very much involved in the public opposition moving forward.

Money is starting to be raised and coming in at a rapid pace. Organization has just begun to start a major ground campaign against the casino. This is not what we want in Morgantown. What a contrast to the red Amish Mennonite schoolhouse tourist information center that's only a few miles up the road. If you have to have another casino in Pennsylvania, I would respectfully ask the Board to consider putting it well outside this and
other family-oriented residential communities.

And I appreciate your time. And I'd also like to point out, if I have a minute, I think most of the opposition tonight was not from this area. They might be representing people that want to come here and work. They might be from the Reading area, a lot of Reading Chamber of Commerce, Reading business people, Reading union officials, which I appreciate the union. I appreciate you guys being here. But the people who are supporting this casino tonight here at this meeting, I would venture to say, don't actually live here. This isn't Reading.

If you look at a map, this is the most southern part of Berks County. This is way more like Lancaster County than - than frankly, than Reading is. So if - if the people that are kind of from Reading want the casino, put it in Reading. Don't put it here.

This is not what these people are about. And I'll finish by saying this, with respect, I appreciate you guys' time. I appreciate you being here. I would think that part of your job is to - is to represent and vote fairly or however the decision is made, based upon the desires of the people that live in the community, quite frankly,
not the desires of Penn National. And I'm a - I'm a businessman. I appreciate business. I'm a - I'm a - I'm a capitalist.

But your - I would think your position is to represent the people in this community. I would venture to say, in fact, I'd put a lot of money on it if I was a gambling man, if you - if you took a - if you put this to a vote - in fact, put it to a vote. That's the fairest way. Put it to a vote. If you put it to vote, I can almost guarantee you, this would go down, maybe 80/20, 80 opposed, 20 for. Maybe. Maybe 90/10, but I can - almost guarantee you this would go down in an overwhelming majority.

It's - so if you want to be a fair Control Board, which I know you are because otherwise you wouldn't be here tonight. I would respectfully ask you to take into consideration the people that live in the community and the majority that don't want this to be here. And I appreciate your time. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Alfred - Alfred Pusey with Vernon Stoltzfus on deck.

MR. PUSEY: My name's Alfred, P-U-S-E-Y, Pusey. And I want to say thank you for
allowing us to speak, PA Gaming Control Board, and thank everyone for being here. This is addressed mainly to our neighbors, fellow citizens and the supervisors of the Caernarvon Township.

    A few years ago, my wife was real excited because the Cracker Barrel restaurant had requested building a restaurant in this area. I don't know if it was at the same site, but they were turned down because there wasn't adequate water and sewage usage. What Mr. Stoltzfus just said that the water treatment plant was in good shape. What changed? I don't know. Regardless of that, Cracker Barrel restaurant opposed to a casino, that's a—that's a pretty big loss.

    The second thing I wanted to say, what about the police force? Will it need to double? And if it needs to double, what will the costs be? How—how far into that $1.6 million will that—I don't know what a police officer receives nowadays, but I'm sure it'd be $60,000, $70,000 I would think. And then the extended EMT services would really eat into that. It's not a big win.

    Well, like others, my neighbor that talked, Mr. Kurtz, and others, we live on Maple Drive, which is against the Turnpike looking at
where the casino is. And we're going to see this for miles? You're not going to put a wall up and sound barrier along the Turnpike? That's - that's - I'd like to move if that's the case.

Anyway, when we moved here 28 years ago, Morgantown was a quiet, Christian community. The hardest thing we had about moving here was learning how to enunciate the large family here, the Stoltzfus family. Well, anyway, regardless of that, with all the problems and moral issues that a casino would bring, I don't think it's an asset for this community.

I heard a couple statements by other people and I got on the internet the other day. I didn't prepare this weeks ago. I just prepared this this week, but maybe as concerned citizens we can get enough signatures, which may already be started. We can have a referendum and if you get enough votes, it would have to voted by the citizens at the next election. That would be the best thing to do. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Vernon Stoltzfus and Kay Peirce on deck.

MR. V. STOLTZFUS: Hi, my name is Vernon Stoltzfus, V-E-R-N-O-N, S-T-O-L-T-Z-F-U-S.
My wife and I have four kids and we both live in - lived the area all our lives. I find this whole idea of putting a casino in our community very troubling, because of the many negative effects on individuals and families. Let me list a few.

Increased rates of unemployment, bankruptcy, increased alcohol and drug abuse, poor mental and physical health to individuals and families, child abuse, neglect and abandonment, depression and lack of productivity, and prostitution.

So the question is - the question I have is, why do we want to do this? Do we really want to sacrifice the mental, and physical, and financial wellbeing of our kids to whatever jobs and tax revenue that we might gain from this travesty?

I'm concerned that bringing this kind of business into our community will have adverse repercussions to our youth, who are already struggling to find their way in life. Is putting this casino in our community the best our local government and State of Pennsylvania can do to contribute to helping our youth grow up to be responsible and productive human beings who give back to society? Why do we even consider allowing a
facility to open in our community that preys on individuals that are vulnerable to making bad choices?

    I strongly believe that if we allow this casino to open in Morgantown, we in our community and our children will pay an immense price in the decades to come. I respectfully ask the Gaming Control Board of Pennsylvania to reject the license of this facility and may God help you do the right thing. Thank you.

    PRESIDING OFFICER: Kay Peirce with Ivy - Ivy Fasko on deck.

    MS. PEIRCE: My name is Kay Peirce, that is K-A-Y, and it is pronounced Peirce, that's P-E-I-R-C-E. I live in Elverson and my husband is a construction worker. He travels for over an hour, sometimes an hour and a half, to go to work. I travel 45 minutes to go to work. I would love to be home every night to cook dinner for my family. And sometimes that's difficult because we travel so far for work. I would love to have a job close to home.

    Now, I have family that live close to the Grantville location. Very close. They see no signs of prostitution, or drug dealing, or human trafficking in their area. They - there's no
reports on their news channels about any of those issues.

And I have news for this community, we have a drug problem already. We have a gambling problem already. We have human trafficking in this area. And I am well aware of that. Do I think the casino is going to bring more? I'm not sure. I'm not guaranteeing anything, but you can't live with blinders and not see that that's already in this community.

I personally have a family member with a gambling addiction, but I went up and I toured and spoke with their Director of Compliance, Alex. And he told me about a self-exclusion list that they have and how strongly they enforce that rule. They have cameras everywhere and they are constantly monitoring that floor. And they are constantly monitoring the people that come in there.

And right now, I have a sick husband at home, so I'm rushing to get through this so I can go home to him. But I am for the casino because it will bring a lot of jobs to this community. But I think people are stressing on issues we already have in this community. And I wish we didn't. I wish there was ways we could fix it. More police may
help that. The casino could bring a bigger police force, a better fire department, better road conditions for our neighborhoods, and better tax revenue for our community.

So I am in favor of this casino. And I'm sorry, but I'm cutting my speech short. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

Ivy Fasko with Kathy Marinelli on deck.

MS. FASKO: Good evening, everybody. I'm here to speak as a person who has a lot of experience with casinos. I come here five years ago, six years ago now from New Mexico, where we had a lot of casinos. And I actually worked for one of the companies that ran one of the two casinos in our town. Although I didn't work in the casino, I was in charge of the construction area.

But I'm - I'm so surprised to hear people hypothecating all these horrible, horrible things that they feel are going to come from a casino. Now, I'm not sitting here with my blinders on. I know that things will come. I know that we already have them as our last addressee said. But I don't think that we should allow those to be
blinders to all of us when we think about maybe the benefits also that we can get. I think that although it wasn't brought up by our gentlemen who addressed us earlier, the casino has a - a very active program, to my understanding, about taking care of people with gambling addictions and/or with problems in the community and I guess maybe we should hear more from you guys about that. I don't know if we have time for that tonight.

But one thing I'd like to know is I'm an ex-smoker and I wasn't able to really understand from what I saw on the internet about whether people are allowed to smoke in casinos. Are they? I know they were in New Mexico, but I don't know what the rule is there. Yes, they can? I assume you have non-smoking areas as well. So, I guess that's partly good.

So, - and the other strongly negative feeling that I had before I came to my positive feeling was about the people who may have a gambling problem and/or a drug problem, but you know, the gambling is the most direct association. And as I thought that over, I - I really ended up feeling like there wasn't - I can't make up somebody's mind for them, how they're going to spend their money or
how they're going to - what they're going to do to - 
I don't know, to run their life.

So, that I ended up feeling that there
was nothing I can do about that. You know, if
people are going to be gambling addicts, they're
going to be. And the programs that are in place, I
hope, will take care of them and they apparently
have been having some positive effect as noted in
all the other casinos that are around the State.

So, those two points aside, the
smoking and the - and the people who can't afford to
gamble, but do, I think that the revenue is needed
for our township - oh, thank you so much. I thought
I has gone off there. But I think the township
could use the revenue and I'll tell you, you know,
there are a lot of other gray hairs here, but I'm
going to speak as a retired person who's on a fixed
budget and say that I do appreciate the amount of
revenue that the - the - the gaming has brought into
our Caernarvon Township, let alone the rest of the
State.

I think in 2017, the stat was that we
got $1 million in gambling revenue directly assigned
to Caernarvon Township, which amounts to something
like $673 per person, that reduced your taxes. That
was a direct reduction to your taxes, whether you know it or not. You all say you don't see any benefit, but - and I didn't know about it either. So once I had gone on the internet and started researching, well what is the benefit, it's not just the amount that we'll get from the gaming, from the - what do you call them? The slot machines and the tables, you know. But there's a broader sense of money that we get assigned to us through the State's program.

So, anyway, I love our little Caernarvon. I mean, I love it because it's rural and I think that, you know, the township has been growing more and more as time has gone by. And this would just be yet another thing that adds on to the township. I think that these guys will be probably good corporate citizens, and that Penn National seems to be a solid company that has good economic growth and management.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

MS. FASKO: Thank you. I vote - or I ask you to rule in favor of -.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Kathy Marinelli with Celeste March on board.

MS. MARINELLI: Hi, my name is Kathy
Marinelli. That's Kathy with a K, and Marinelli is M-A-R-I-N-E-L-L-I. Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts.

My husband and I have lived in Morgantown now for 15 years. Prior to that, we lived in West Chester for 22, and before that, Delaware County. Many, many times since we moved here we've said we should've moved here sooner. We love it here. It's been a joy to live in this beautiful area with open farms and the kind, God-fearing people. And we're just grateful to be here.

Eight years ago God spared my husband's life with a heart transplant. We were in and out of Philly many, many times. And as I sat in waiting areas and was asked where I lived, I would proudly say in the country, in the Amish world between Reading and Lancaster. I said many people were jealous of me when I would I tell them that. And they'd say, oh, I wish I lived there. Now, if this goes through, maybe I guess I'll have to say, I live at the Turnpike exit with all the casino billboards and the lights. That won't go good.

Anyhow, I have a question and a couple of comments. My question is, how can such a
controversial project as a casino come here and without a vote by the community that it will impact? I understand there was over 1,000 similar communities across Pennsylvania that opted out and they didn't open the door for this kind of business. Why didn't they do that? Is there some negative issues that they face that we're ignoring here? So I ask, would we dare put the hope of revenue above what's the best interest for our families?

My comment is - it comes as a grandmother of five precious kids and one who's very concerned about the children in this area. For the last 14 years I've had the privilege of teaching a bible club every week at our local Twin Valley Elementary School. My heart as a Christian is to teach the kids that God loves them and to encourage them to live honest, respectful lives. Just this week in club I had to emphasize that it was wrong to take something that doesn't belong to you. I told them that's stealing. They need to work hard and do their best in school so someday they can earn money to be able to have the things they want or need.

I think, isn't gambling a form of theft? I've even heard that slot machines are
sometimes called a one-arm bandit. So, what does gambling teach kids? Because kids are my heart. Is it that they can get rich quick? When they see their parents go gambling, what lessons do they learn? And when their mom and dad waste money at a casino and the funds just aren't there for such things as a sport team, or karate, or music lessons, or other things, what are the kids learning?

Many, many lower income families live paycheck to paycheck. I'm sorry about that. They're the ones most hurt by gambling. Just because something's legal, doesn't mean that it's good or it's wholesome. And just because we have an empty lot right by the Turnpike, right next to a swim club for children, I might add, it doesn't mean that a casino is the best use of this country - of this land for this beautiful area.

So, I ask in closing; are our decisions about this casino based strictly on money? Scripture says that a wise man builds his house upon rock. Building a casino surely is building on sand. Others have already addressed all the casino issues of crime, drugs, drunk driving, bankruptcy, depression, et cetera. But I ask you, for the sake of our kids, our children, consider the effect this
could have on our families. I hear the concerns expressed by fellow citizens in this fine community and I strongly ask you, please deny the request of National Penn (sic) Gaming to have this located in Morgantown or any of our nearby areas. Thank you for listening.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Celeste - Celeste March with Joshua Prat on deck.

MS. MARCH: Hi, my name's Celeste March. It's C-E-L-E-S-T-E, M-A-R-C-H, like the month.

Just - this is a side note, just as I've been taking stats for the individuals that have spoken. I have note that of those that spoke, there were four supporters, two of them being a union, two individuals and 18, including myself, that went against. So, at - at this point, I would say we're significantly against as individuals speaking.

Also, mine's short and sweet. So, I won't be long. I've resided in this community for the last 30-plus years. I lived in Elverson Borough for 15 years before moving to Caernarvon Township for the last 16 years. My husband and I chose to raise our four children here because it's a community rich in history, deep in faith, and
surrounded by farm land.

I am not a dynamic speaker or even a good speaker, but I am here today because we are so strongly opposed to having a casino three miles from our home. We're just wondering how five people made such a rash decision for our community of 4,000. The deal to welcome this community - the deal to welcome this casino to our neighborhood without soliciting the opinions of the residents is incomprehensible.

I am a former Elverson Borough Council member and made sure that any decision I voted on was informed by finding out what our community at large thought about that particular subject, as I felt I was elected to represent my constituents, not myself. How all five supervisors unanimously voted for a casino in our township is mind boggling.

Apparently, they did not consider those of us who might have opposed a casino in our town. A supervisor or two should've spoken for those that were opposed to the idea, but I guess they didn't know because they never asked us. This decision seems to have been made behind closed doors without any public input. There should've been a well-advertised public meeting like this before
making any quick decisions.

At this point, it is an uphill battle - at this point, it is an uphill battle with significant apathy for those against the casino. Many residents feel it's pointless to fight because they feel deceived. Now we are up against time and a well-oiled machine, known as Penn National Racetrack, who now holds the reins to our future with their money, power and greed.

Casinos destroy marriages, steal from families, disrupt communities, devalue properties, and promote alcohol consumption and sex trafficking. I will not go down without a fight and we can only pray that if it comes to fruition, that it will close down as quickly as it came in. This casino is not something we want or need.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Joshua Prat with Phillip Witman on deck.

MR. PRAT: Hi, I'm Josh Prat. J-O-S-H, P-R-A-T. I'm a union electrician with the IBEW. I'm also a veteran of our military, the U.S. Army. I come in favor or the casino - thank you. I come in favor of the casino. A lot of opinions and facts were shared here today and I have to be honest, a lot of energy is opposed gambling.
A simple Google search would show that only 6.6 percent of North Americans are pathological
gamblers. The community is worried if your children
will be affected. I have two children myself, ages
five and seven. Are we raising our children in the
casino parking lot? I don't think so. Tablets and
electronics are where you should point your finger
out to - that disrupt your kids' lives and make them
make bad decisions.

Penn National was born here in Wyomissing, PA. They have how many, 42 other
venues? This isn't their first rodeo. The revenue
will help many of our local community problems.
Twenty (20) years since taxes were raised; I find
that very fortunate and so is the community to have
this opportunity to keep it that way. That is all.
Thank you for your time.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Philip Witman?

MR. WITMAN: Everybody take a deep
breath. This is the one you've been waiting for,
the last one, not me, but the last one. I also
don't have a voice so I'll talk into this.

This - this is kind of some history -.

MS. MANDERINO: Philip, can you spell
your last name?
PRESIDING OFFICER: Yes, please.

MR. WITMAN: Okay.

Philip, with one L, and Witman, with no H, W-I-T-M-A-N. I grew up in Morgantown in the '50s and '60s - let me get this closer - in the '50s and '60s, and as any - and as any community, growth is expected and normal. I remember when a steakhouse came. I don't know if any of you here - it was the talk of the town. It's currently a nursing - or no, it's a nursery school. It also before was a nursery school after the steakhouse left, it was a -.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: A church.

MR. WITMAN: It had been a church, but it had also had been one of the grades for Twin Valley, they called it Hamburger High or something like that at the time. Along with McDonald's, the talk was if we only had a Pizza Hut. I don't know if you ever heard that, but I know when McDonald's came we were thinking well, we need a Pizza Hut. We could be fulfilled with a Pizza Hut. Then the gigantic Morgantown Outlet Mall, or MOMs, as those of you that are familiar with the area. That came in and it's now an enclosed space with limited vital use. It's a huge space, but it's pretty much empty.
We heard of a trash to steam facility, the New Morgan Victorian Village, anyone? Disneyworld East? Never materialized. That was all in the surround - supposedly on the surroundings of old Grace mine. Many businesses, including industries, thrived here while others did not. Many of these have contributed to the productivity of the surrounding area and others did not. Some never materialized and others were short lived.

The new discovery - the news discovery of the possibility of a casino coming to Morgantown through the local Tri-County newspaper, and I believe that was just about four months ago that that was the first that anybody heard anything about it. It caught many people's attention, but many people thinking it was - it was unlikely, gave little thought to the real implications of having a casino in our community.

What is the product of - what is the product of a casino? Who and how does it benefit and who does it harm? It appears now that deciding whether or not a casino comes is in the hands of the Pennsylvania Gaming Commission.

I was part of the first class to graduate 1965 - actually, my elementary school is
just not here anymore, but I went to elementary school in Morgantown and walked there. But the first – Twin Valley High School, I was the first class – I was a member of the first class that graduated in '65. And that's starting from seventh grade there. After college, Spot High School. And I've always focused on the importance of science in our daily lives.

Throughout my life – throughout my adult life, I've always been aware of how addictions affect many people's lives, along with increasing opiate usage and deaths. The scientific community, through a lot of research, is now aware how brain – the brain responds to pleasure with its own chemistry. And you're familiar with those, endorphins, that can set the stage for addictions. And for some people, casino gambling is now understood to be responsible for gambling addictions that can destroy people's lives.

This is science. And despite some of the leadership in our country today that ignore science, the truth needs to come out. Casinos may look very sparkly inside and out, but there's no tangible product of a casino that can truly benefit our surrounding community. The casino – any casino
coming is out of character for our particular area. And I believe that the majority living here, a business that's not wanted.

We're more than the nearest Turnpike exchange on someone's GPS. Thank you for your attention.

PRESIDING OFFICER: So this is the last call for Tom Hornberger? Denise Harris? Brian Walls? Glenn Helman? And Shawn Brubacher?

Okay. With those - that, that concludes the -. 

MR. KING: Madam Hearing Officer? One point of information procedurally, if I could?

PRESIDING OFFICER: Yes.

MR. KING: Adrian King, Counsel for Penn National.

Our first community speaker, Mr. Rohrer, raised the issue of redactions to our application to the Board. The applications are redacted in a standard form following 1206(f) of the Gaming Act with respect to confidential information. It's a standard approach, which the Board puts in place. He specifically called out the question with respect to bribery. I want to firmly put on the record that our answer to that question is no. And
if the Board wishes to release that one question, the answer to that question, we have no objection to the same. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. King.

The Board has also received written comments. We have received 53 in support and 18 in opposition at this point. And we also did receive the two petitions that were, again, submitted today. All of these written comments, as well as what was presented here today, will be put up on our website at some point in the next few days, as will the video of this presentation and the Power Point.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: What is the website?

MR. KING: It's gamingcontrolboard.pa.gov.

PRESIDING OFFICER: If you Google PA Gaming Control Board it will take you right there.

So the record in this matter will remain open and the transcript, as well as all the written comments received, will be given to all the Board members for their consideration. Then the Board at its convenience will schedule this matter to be heard at a future public Board meeting in Harrisburg.
I wish to thank the staff here at Caernarvon Township for their help with arranging and holding the hearing in this room today, for all of you coming today and for your patience and your cooperation.

The hearing is now adjourned. Thank you.

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HEARING CONCLUDED AT 7:35 P.M.

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings, hearing held before Officer Lloyd, was reported by me on 3/4/2019 and that I, Joshua Lee Hess, read this transcript, and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding.

Dated the 12th day of March, 2019.

[Signature]

Court Reporter

Joshua Lee Hess