

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

GAMING CONTROL BOARD

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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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WITNESSES: Samuel Rohrer, Randolph Peers, Andrea McHenry, Ryan Helms, Jacob Kurtz, Coleen Painter, Liza Grundy, William McGee, Michelle Raymond, Gary Elston, Dwight Frizen, Kevin Barnhardt, Allen Styer, Francis Loughney, Larry Clauser, Janet Caley, Victoria Lingg, Ted Allan, Michele King, Samuel Petersheim, Michael Shoup, Joshua Stoltzfus, Brian McMahon, Brian K. Walls, Lisa Joye, Steven Beckman, Geoff Litwin, Stephanie Gibson, Rachel White, Kate Shuhler, Kristen Petersheim, Eaton Hopkins, Alfred Pusey, Vernon Stoltzfus, Kay Pierce, Ivy Fasko, Kathy Marinelli, Celeste March, Joshua Prat, Phillip Witman

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3 PENN NATIONAL GAMING:

4 Adrian King, Esquire, Ballard Spahr, LLP

5 John Finamore, Senior Vice President of Regional

6 Operations, Penn National.

7 Chris Rogers, Senior Vice President for Corporate

8 Development

9 Dan Ihm, Vice President and General Manager, Hollywood

10 Casino at Penn National Race Course

11 Jeff Morris, Penn National

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NONE OFFERED

## P R O C E E D I N G S

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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

1 and Gaming Act as amended at Section 1305.1 created  
2 a new category of slot machine licenses, referred to  
3 as Category 4 Licenses. On April 4th, 2018,  
4 Mountainview Thoroughbred Racing Association won a  
5 Category 4 License auction with the winning bid of  
6 \$7,000,503 - \$7,500,003 giving it the opportunity to  
7 propose and build a facility located within a 50-  
8 mile radius of the longitude and latitude  
9 coordinates provided with its winning bid.

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

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

1 newspapers.

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

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

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

22                   So, let's begin by having all  
23 witnesses from Penn National who will testify today,  
24 if you could please stand and raise your right hand  
25 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 -.

1                   PRESIDING OFFICER: Penn National?

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

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

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

22                   MR. FINAMORE: Thank you.

23                   Good afternoon, Commissioners and  
24 Staff of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board.  
25 John, J-O-H-N, Finamore, F-I-N-A-M-O-R-E, Senior

1 Vice President Regional Operations for Penn National  
2 Gaming.

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

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

21 ---

22 (WHEREUPON, VIDEO WAS PLAYED)

23 ---

24 MR. FINAMORE: Once again, Berks  
25 County is our home. I think we are very proud of

1 the growth that we talked about, but we're also very  
2 proud of the fact that we've called Berks County  
3 home for over 45 years. It's also important to note  
4 that we are a very active member in the community,  
5 not only in the business community in Berks County,  
6 but also in the philanthropic communities in - in  
7 the county.

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

13                   With me today are a number of  
14 executives who reside in Berks County who are active  
15 in various charities and organizations. We've  
16 served on the boards of directors for a number of  
17 organizations, including the YMCA, Boys and Girls  
18 Club, Greater Berks Food Bank and Mary's Shelter,  
19 where my colleague, Jeff Morris, who's behind me to  
20 my left, is currently serving as the president.  
21 Together with these charities, we are very committed  
22 to helping Berks County, our home, continue to grow  
23 and improve for all residents and look forward to  
24 the opportunity to extend our outreach in years to  
25 come.

1 I'm trying to show you our core  
2 values. Here we go. Okay. So, these are the core  
3 values by which we run our business. We strive to  
4 prove an unparalleled guest experience. Work happy.  
5 That is our mantra very much for our team members at  
6 the properties. We have been selected as the  
7 employer of choice. We've won numerous awards.  
8 There's a couple of them up there. We have a  
9 commitment to diversity. We strive to have our  
10 employee population, our team member population,  
11 reflect the diversity of the communities in which we  
12 operate. We talked a little bit about the  
13 commitment to community and the charitable  
14 organizations and work that we do. And we are very  
15 committed to responsible gaming. We follow the  
16 American Gaming Association's standards on  
17 responsible gaming. And we take that very  
18 seriously, as you know.

19 A little bit about the property down  
20 the road. I showed you a photo of it from the early  
21 '70s. Here's a more current look of Hollywood  
22 Casino at Penn National Race Course. This property  
23 cost - we've invested \$400 million in the property,  
24 opened in 2008, as you know. Currently we have 907  
25 team members, our slot count at 2,002 and tables at

1 75. I think it's a remarkable stat that since we've  
2 opened the property has paid \$1.6 billion in taxes  
3 and fees to the State and communities. \$156 million  
4 the local - is the local share assessment. \$338  
5 million in salaries, wages and benefits to our team  
6 members. And \$13 million paid annually in local and  
7 state vendor spend.

8           Again, just to highlight some our  
9 community involvement, we talked a little bit about  
10 that a moment ago. \$3.75 million for IBD Research  
11 at the Milton Hershey Medical Center. That has been  
12 one of our main charities that we've worked with.  
13 But we've also donated or raised \$1.3 million to  
14 local and regional charities and over \$100,000 to  
15 the local Relay for Life. In fact, in 2018, the  
16 company as a whole raised \$427,000 for Relay for  
17 Life and since 2015, the company has raised almost  
18 \$1.2 million.

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

25           Let me now turn the presentation over

1 to Chris Rogers SVP of Corporate Development.  
2 Chris.

3 MR. ROGERS: Thank you.

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

7 I'm very excited today to be talking  
8 to you about our project at the Hollywood Casino in  
9 Morgantown. Just a little bit of background to  
10 start with. As you recall, we won the fifth auction  
11 on April 4th of last year for \$7.5 million, and  
12 selected as our location a 15-mile territory  
13 centered in West Cocalico Township. We feel very  
14 fortunate to have found what we believe is an  
15 excellent site right here in Caernarvon Township for  
16 a Greenfield development on an undeveloped, but  
17 improved site, right at the intersection of I-76 and  
18 176.

19 As you can see from the map, this is a  
20 - a new jurisdiction for us, a new market for us.  
21 This - this facility is about equidistant between  
22 our property Hollywood Casino in Grantville and the  
23 City of Philadelphia and about 23 miles from  
24 Lancaster and about 12 miles south of Reading and  
25 our corporate headquarters in Wyomissing. We

1 submitted our gaming application on October 31st.

2                   Onto the project. You'll probably  
3 notice right off the bat the classic art deco  
4 styling, reminiscent of our Hollywood Casino in  
5 Grantville. I do want to mention at the onset, this  
6 is a satellite casino. It's much smaller in scale  
7 than what we have in Grantville. But we would  
8 consider the fit and finishes to be of equal quality  
9 to that facility, and certainly commensurate with  
10 the Hollywood Casino brand.

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

20                   Of course, we will have food and  
21 beverage offerings, including the signature  
22 restaurant, a food hall with multiple choices for  
23 food options, as well as bar and entertainment. And  
24 if all goes according to plan, we should target an  
25 opening sometime at the end of next year.

1                   This slide really emphasizes the - the  
2 ideal location that we've chosen in Caernarvon  
3 Township. You can see this is right in the corridor  
4 of I-76 and 76, tremendous visibility from the  
5 highway, as well as accessibility.

6                   Moving on, a little bit at the site  
7 plan, you can see the main entrance is the driveway  
8 from the north side, which will take you down a  
9 tree-lined driveway into the main entrance, which is  
10 the porte cochere on the north side of the property.

11                  And there's also a secondary entrance on the west  
12 side. There are about a thousand parking spaces  
13 around the facility, which should be more than  
14 adequate for a property of this size.

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

23                  We - the food and beverage outlets are  
24 shaded in the peach. So, on the south side, you  
25 have our signature restaurant. On the - on the east

1 side you see our food hall, both with their own bar,  
2 entertainment area. As far as the casino design, we  
3 contemplate having the table games in the center of  
4 the gaming floor surrounded on all sides by slot  
5 machines with an entertainment stage on - on the  
6 bottom right - or left hand corner, which we think  
7 will make for a very exciting, high energy  
8 atmosphere for our customers.

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

18                   We - we engaged Langan Engineering to  
19 do a study of the potential traffic impact. They  
20 looked at 11 nearby intersections and determined  
21 that the anticipated traffic for Hollywood Casino is  
22 much less than the prior mixed-use development. And  
23 both Langan and PennDOT determined that the existing  
24 roadway network has sufficient capacity to  
25 accommodate the site generated by the casino trips.

1                   We did, of course, consider some of  
2 the other local impacts, including local street  
3 maintenance, which is - which is negated by the fact  
4 that we are - we are right off of the highway at 76,  
5 at I-76. Also our use of the utilities, local  
6 utilities as well as the impact on public safety,  
7 including police, fire and emergency services. In  
8 each instance, it was determined that the impacts of  
9 this project would not be significant.

10                   But what would be significant is our  
11 impact on the - on the economy. 275 direct  
12 construction jobs, over \$50 million in direct  
13 construction expenses. That would mean over \$50  
14 million in total positive impacts to the economy of  
15 Caernarvon, over \$83 million to our home County of  
16 Berks, over \$102 million to - to the Commonwealth of  
17 Pennsylvania, and about \$1.6 million in - in  
18 additional taxes.

19                   So, at this point, I'd like - I'd like  
20 to say - and close, by saying that we think that,  
21 you know, we take our - our relationship with the  
22 communities very, very seriously, and we think we  
23 have designed this project in a way to really  
24 minimize the potential negative impacts of the  
25 development while maximizing the potential economic

1 impact. So, with that, I will turn it over to Dan  
2 Ihm to talk about our operations.

3 MR. IHM: Okay. Thanks, Chris.

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

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

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

24 We'll offer variations of blackjack.  
25 We'll have 21 plus 3 craps, roulette, and we'll also

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

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

18                   Lounge with small stage. The stage  
19 will - will feature regional and local artists and  
20 we'll probably have that entertainment on weekends,  
21 maybe Friday, Saturday nights. And then a food  
22 hall, which is about a hundred seats. It's also  
23 kind of a grab-and-go concept, so that'll be the  
24 concept that we'll have available to us 24/7. And  
25 that'll offer similar products, kind of like what we

1 have at the Eatery. So, it's sandwiches, hamburgers  
2 New York-style pizza, Philly cheese steak  
3 sandwiches, those types of things.

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

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

23           But with those 250 full time, we offer  
24 a list of benefits, as you can see up on the screen.  
25 A 401(k), and after a year of employment there's

1 also a company match, medical, dental, paid time  
2 off. There's a bonus program that we pay out  
3 quarterly, and that's for customer service  
4 initiatives. Tuition reimbursement. So, that's -  
5 that's a great one. Our undergraduates, we can give  
6 up to \$2,500, and then for graduate degrees, we give  
7 \$5,000 for those full-time folks looking to further  
8 their education.

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

24                   And then representative of the  
25 community. So, many of our staff and our leadership

1 team members, as I know we discussed earlier in the  
2 slide deck, John did, many of them sit on boards.  
3 We work for non - we work with not-for profit  
4 organizations, as well as boards for Chamber of  
5 Commerce, et cetera. So, we're very active within  
6 the communities we serve.

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

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

22                   We have quarterly roundtables, which  
23 are knowledge checks. Those are really pop quizzes.  
24       Daily pre-shift discussions, which are in all  
25 departments. We have the state-of-the art ID

1 verification system, and really that does two  
2 things. It - we use it obviously to monitor all of  
3 the access points in the casino to check for anybody  
4 that may be under the age of 21.

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

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

18           So, Chris talked about the economic  
19 impacts as it relates to the construction. So, this  
20 is the impact as it relates to operations. You can  
21 see in Caernarvon it's \$73 million, which is the  
22 initial impact. And I won't go through every one of  
23 these. I'll just wait minute and you guys can go  
24 through, but you can see Berks County, Pennsylvania  
25 and other. And upon stabilization, obviously those

1 numbers increase. Caernarvon is - goes from \$73 to  
2 \$94.3 million. And these are direct, indirect and  
3 induced.

4 So, the local impact, Caernarvon  
5 Township. There's \$1.6 million annually in new  
6 revenues for Caernarvon Township upon stabilization.

7 This is the two percent of the slot revenue and one  
8 percent of table revenues. So, that's \$1.6 million  
9 annually.

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

23 Some of the things that we discussed  
24 were the parking areas. And the parking areas here  
25 at the Morgantown facility will be very well lit.

1 We - we will have - our security department will do  
2 police checks and patrols in their vehicle. That  
3 happens throughout the day and the evening while  
4 we're open.

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

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

21                   And then in summary, Penn National is  
22 a highly reputable entertainment company that  
23 creates and operates high-quality facilities in 18  
24 different jurisdictions. We have a proven record of  
25 civic and charitable involvement in Berks County and

1 the surrounding communities, significant investment  
2 in Caernarvon area, over \$111 million, creation of  
3 approximately 250 permanent jobs and 275  
4 construction jobs, as Chris indicated, target date  
5 of winter/fall of 2020, minimal impact and costs to  
6 the township, and again, \$1.6 million annually in  
7 new tax revenues for Caernarvon Township.

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

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

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

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

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

22 MR. KING: Great.

23 MR. SANTONI: Thank you for your  
24 presentation gentleman and maybe this is for Chris.  
25 On the site plan I just wondered where - like where

1 we are now in conjunction to where the facility is  
2 going to be.

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

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

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

10 MR. SANTONI: Okay.

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

13 MR. ROGERS: We don't -.

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

18 MR. ROGERS: Very minimal use of the -  
19 of the local streets by our studies. I mean, all -  
20 the traffic from 176, it's a direct shot exit,  
21 certainly right on to the - to the entryway. From  
22 76, you're just going 76 to 176 and then you're  
23 directly on the access road.

24 MR. SANTONI: That's all I have.  
25 Thank you.

1                   PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay.

2                   With that, we will move on to the  
3 public input portion of today's hearing.

4                   ATTORNEY KING: Thank you.

5                   ---

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

8                   ---

9                   PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay. Thank you.

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

19                   So, when the light turns green, your  
20 time has started and when it turns yellow, you have  
21 45 seconds left and I would suggest you wrap up your  
22 comments at that point. And at the red - and it  
23 will beep and we will - you'll be asked to stop  
24 speaking and leave the microphone for the next  
25 person.

1                   AUDIENCE MEMBER: For the record,  
2 there was no Pledge of Allegiance. Was there?

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

15                   So, I'm going to swear people in by  
16 group. We're going to start with our government  
17 representatives that have registered to speak today.

18 I have a list of five of you; Tim Hennessey, Kevin  
19 Barnhardt, Allen Styer, Gary Elston and Dwight  
20 Frizen. If you could all stand at the table and  
21 raise your right hand to be sworn.

22                   ---

23                   (WHEREUPON, WITNESSES SWORN EN MASSE)

24                   ---

25                   PRESIDING OFFICER: So, we have up

1 first to speak, Representative Tim Hennessey, and on  
2 deck, Kevin Barnhardt from Berks County.

3 Okay. Maybe Mr. Hennessey has not  
4 made it.

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

8 PRESIDING OFFICER: All right.

9 So, then we'll start with Kevin  
10 Barnhardt.

11 MR. BARNHARDT: Good afternoon,  
12 Commission.

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

18 MR. BARNHARDT: Good afternoon,  
19 Commission. My name is Kevin Barnhardt, K-E-V-I-N,  
20 B-A-R-N-H-A-R-D-T. I'm a Berks County Commissioner  
21 and also a member of the Board of Directors of the  
22 Greater Reading Visitors and Tourism Bureau. I'm  
23 here on behalf of myself, as a County Commissioner,  
24 not on behalf of the Board of Commissioners. I  
25 wanted to clarify that.

1           But I feel this is truly a once in a  
2 lifetime opportunity for our county, to bring in 275  
3 part - well, 275 construction jobs and over 250 jobs  
4 permanently for this casino build. Certainly, we  
5 struggle in Berks County with a high tax rate,  
6 whether it's school district or county tax, and any  
7 type of infusion of tax dollars we can utilize to  
8 lower that cost will, I think, certainly encourage  
9 folks to live and work and enjoy Berks County.

10           I'm full - fully supportive of the  
11 casino, because I do believe it brings a good level  
12 of jobs and support for the community. And I also  
13 think it's great for the township to be able to  
14 utilize the services of that, as far as a tax  
15 offset. As a Tourism Bureau member, over the years  
16 the state has been declining mightily in the amount  
17 of money they promote the State and tourism. We are  
18 very heavily restricted in Berks County by five  
19 percent hotel room tax. That was a legislative  
20 initiative back in the late '90s with respect to the  
21 Convention Center in downtown Reading. And over the  
22 years, it's raised a small amount of revenue because  
23 80 percent of that money goes to the debt service  
24 for the Convention Center. Only 20 percent comes to  
25 the Tourism and Visitors Bureau, about \$250,000 to

1 \$300,000.

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

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

23                   Right now, we have \$900 million that  
24 comes into Berks County that it's spent by tourism.  
25       An average tourist coming in one day, spends \$250

1 to \$400. Again, it helps to spread the cost of  
2 operating a very large county government, as well as  
3 fully funding a tourism bureau that sorely needs it.

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

6 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

7 Allen Styer is up, and Gary Elston is  
8 on deck.

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

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

23 So, we decided to opt in. We - the  
24 lot that they chose actually is the lot we  
25 envisioned, we hoped that they would choose. You

1 know, it was for sale. It was vacant for years. It  
2 was semi-improved, but it's like a quarter mile off  
3 the Turnpike and 176. So, the majority of the  
4 traffic is not even going to go through our  
5 community.

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

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

19 It's kind of isolated by the - from  
20 most of our population from our town by the Turnpike  
21 cutting through between the casino and the residents  
22 of Morgantown. When Penn National surfaced, the  
23 township performed due diligence by meeting with  
24 Penn National Gaming Representatives to explore the  
25 nature of their operations. We visited Hollywood

1 Casino in Grantville, and the Chief of Police met  
2 with Penn National Gaming Representatives in  
3 Grantville to explore security concerns.

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

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

20 It also is going to improve the  
21 township's ability to attract the complaints that we  
22 get. We don't have good sit-down restaurants and we  
23 don't have a supermarket, grocery store. Hopefully,  
24 once we get the casino, instead of being a  
25 drive-through, pass-through community, this will be

1 a destination place for people and maybe some other  
2 businesses will want to come here. And it will also  
3 reduce our pressure to raise taxes because - well,  
4 we haven't raised taxes in over 20 years and it's  
5 getting tight.

6 And that's all I have.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

8 Gary Elston is up - grab the mic - and  
9 Dwight Frizen is on deck.

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

18 Has there been an independent traffic  
19 study done on the impact and the increase of traffic  
20 that would be generated on our area's roadways? And  
21 if so, could the traffic study be made public? If a  
22 study has not been done, which the question has been  
23 answered. It has been done. Whether it's been  
24 done, by an incomplete - an independent study would  
25 be nice - be nice if Penn National Gaming, along

1 with PennDOT and Caernarvon Township, would do such  
2 a study. Our concerns are as follows.

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

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

20           Our major concern with the proposed  
21 project is the intersection located approximately  
22 three-quarters of a mile east of Caernarvon - east  
23 in Caernarvon Township and Berks County. The  
24 intersection we are referring to and concerned about  
25 is PA Route 23 and PA Route 401, located in District

1 5 of PennDOT. This intersection is presently  
2 controlled by a single stop sign. And all the  
3 routes mentioned previously lead and intersect  
4 through the intersection to get to Morgantown's  
5 places of business and proposed location of the  
6 casino.

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

19 Taking all the aforementioned into  
20 consideration, we feel, with the increased traffic  
21 to the proposed casino, a traffic-control device, a  
22 red light is warranted. This will facilitate a  
23 safer flow of traffic rather than just one vehicle  
24 at a time trying to enter onto Route 23 or exit from  
25 Route 23 to Route 401.

1                   We feel that Penn National Gaming will  
2 be responsible for the increase in the traffic and  
3 perhaps a significant increase. They should be -  
4 this should be responsible for the safety of all  
5 concerned. Therefore, Penn National Gaming should  
6 work with PennDOT and District 5 and Caernarvon  
7 Township to provide the necessary funding and  
8 engineering controls to be put into place at the  
9 intersection for safety of the school attendees,  
10 emergency services, residents, all travelers and  
11 their future patrons.

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

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

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

24                   To the members of the Pennsylvania  
25 Gaming Control Board, Caernarvon Township Board of

1 Supervisors and leaders in our local communities  
2 present here today, and also the Penn National  
3 Gaming Team, first, thank you for the opportunity to  
4 provide input to the Morgantown Casino project.

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

14 The Borough of Elverson is a small,  
15 country town with a population of approximately  
16 1,400 people and it's located just adjacent to  
17 Caernarvon Township and neighboring Chester County.

18 Admittedly, we have our reservations about the  
19 impact of a casino moving within a few miles of our  
20 little town. But we're not here to dispute this  
21 project, as we respect the Caernarvon Township team  
22 has done due diligence around the benefits and  
23 challenges to their community.

24 As you can see, there are also plenty  
25 of people here this evening to intelligently argue

1 both sides of this important matter. What we are  
2 here to do is to offer this Board thoughtful and  
3 economic and structural considerations and  
4 recommendations to protect Elverson from impacts  
5 created on our small town planned over the next five  
6 to ten years should this casino project come to  
7 fruition.

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

11 PRESIDING OFFICER: I did.

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

19 In the diagram, this is a radius of  
20 five miles, which is depicted in blue there. In  
21 rural areas, such as ours, this impact will be felt.

22 The simple fact is that the casino coming to  
23 Morgantown adds expense to Elverson, which was not  
24 slated to receive - but we're not slated to receive  
25 any of the proposed benefit. Please let me

1 elaborate on some of the foreseeable expenses.

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

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

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

25           The Elverson Borough Council

1 respectfully submits for consideration to the good  
2 members of the Gaming Control Board and Caernarvon  
3 Township Board, a request for planned and fair  
4 compensation for the expenses which I just  
5 mentioned. We are not asking for our piece of the  
6 pie, rather we are asking for compensation for the  
7 increased civic burden that will inevitably come.

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

16           The safety and well-being of Elverson  
17 and Morgantown residents, as well as guests to our  
18 communities, is what is most important to us.  
19 That's what I'm speaking here this evening.  
20 Respectfully submitted, Dwight Frizen, President  
21 Elverson Borough Council.

22           PRESIDING OFFICER: All right.

23           Representative Hennessey.

24           MR. HENNESSEY: Hello. Let me begin  
25 my apologizing to the Board for being late. I was

1 at a funeral for my cousin down in Lansdale. It ran  
2 longer than I expected.

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

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

20                   Pennsylvania is not as conservative a  
21 state as it once was, but the area chosen by the -  
22 or for the Hollywood Casino by Penn National is  
23 itself, still very conservative. Penn National's  
24 choice to locate here is itself a gamble. It could  
25 be very successful or it could fail and leave a

1 massive empty building, which is not easily  
2 adaptable to more commonplace uses.

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

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

21           The Gaming Control Board should  
22 consider whether the proximity of the Valley Forge  
23 Casino, which is 27 miles away, and the Casino at  
24 Penn National Racecourse 44 miles away near  
25 Harrisburg, bodes well or ill for the financial

1 success of this proposed casino.

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

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

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

23 Thank you very much.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

25 We will move on to our community

1 groups. I have nine registered. Samuel Rohrer,  
2 Randolph Peers, Andrea McHenry, Ryan Helms, Jacob  
3 Kurtz, Coleen Painter, Liza Grundy, William McGee,  
4 and Michelle Raymond. If you could all stand, if  
5 you're able, to be sworn. Raise your right hand to  
6 be sworn by the court reporter.

7 ---

8 (WHEREUPON, WITNESSES SWORN EN MASSE)

9 ---

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

14 MR. ROHRER: Members of the  
15 Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, my name is Sam  
16 Rohrer, R-O-H-R-E-R, last name. Today I speak as a  
17 citizen, for 40 years I've lived only several miles  
18 from the proposed location of the Hollywood Casino.  
19 I have a personal interest in the well being of this  
20 community as my 6 children and my 14 grandchildren  
21 live within a 20-mile radius of the proposed casino.

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

1 vested interest I have.

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

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

18 While some proponents of this casino  
19 will offer some benefits, all will likely cite the  
20 only possible but nonetheless disingenuous and  
21 elusive benefit of personal financial gain or tax  
22 revenue enhancements. The proponents will  
23 conspicuously ignore the obvious reality that unlike  
24 normal business, gambling gives no money that hasn't  
25 been first taken from those least able to lose it,

1 or that gambling produces an addiction to the get-  
2 rich-quick mentality. And gambling clouds the  
3 judgment of some public officials and some business  
4 leaders, leading some to compromise their community  
5 values over the allure of money.

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

19           To the Gaming Commission members, what  
20 cultural value does a major gambling casino  
21 contribute to this community and this tri-county  
22 area? What upstanding values of character,  
23 integrity or work ethic will a casino offer our  
24 children or our families? What upstanding  
25 attributes can a gambling facility offer any

1 community, but especially to this - our historically  
2 God-fearing culture? I know of none.

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

12                   A comprehensive report should include  
13 the local impact on families, the local impact on  
14 the moral and social health of the community and the  
15 local impact on preexisting cultural values. Why  
16 are the entire sections - or entire sections of the  
17 Penn National online application to the Gaming  
18 Control Board for this Hollywood Casino Morgantown  
19 redacted or blanked out? What's being withheld from  
20 the public?                   For instance, a simple yes  
21 or no answer is visible for certain questions, but  
22 redacted for questions 10 to 16 which reads, quote,  
23 during the last ten-year period has an applicant,  
24 it's parent company, any of its affiliates,  
25 intermediaries, subsidiaries, holding companies,

1 principals, employees or any third parties acting on  
2 or behalf of applicant made any bribes or kickbacks  
3 or made any payments alleged to have been bribes or  
4 kickbacks to any employee, person, company or  
5 organization to obtain favorable treatment?

6 Redacted.

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

13 In the final minutes of the debate,  
14 just after midnight on Sunday morning July 4th,  
15 2004, I argued against this legislation by stating  
16 that if it was passed, it would open the door to  
17 gambling and introduce a creeping cultural cancer  
18 into our Commonwealth.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER: Sir.

20 MR. ROHRER: I stated how -

21 PRESIDING OFFICER: Sir, sir, Mr.

22 Rohrer. Your time's up.

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

25 PRESIDING OFFICER: Sir, your time is

1 up.

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

4 PRESIDING OFFICER: Sir -.

5 MR. ROHRER: My voice is weak.

6 I will say this in conclusion. For  
7 the Gaming Control Board to place a casino in this  
8 conservative Morgantown area is incongruous. While  
9 gambling may now be legal, it remains inconsistent  
10 with and abhorrent to and - by most communities in  
11 Pennsylvania.

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

14 MR. ROHRER: Pardon?

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

18 MR. ROHRER: Yes, I will indeed.

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

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

24 PRESIDING OFFICER: Randolph -  
25 Randolph Peers and Andrea McHenry is on deck.

1                   MR. PEERS: Good afternoon,  
2 Commissioners, my name's Randy Peers, P-E-E-R-S.  
3 I'm President and CEO of the Greater Reading Chamber  
4 Alliance. The GRCA was formed in January of 2017  
5 through a merger of Berks County's Chamber of  
6 Commerce and two county-wide economic development  
7 entities creating the area's largest business and  
8 economic development association.

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

17                   I'm here to testify today in favor of  
18 Penn National's Gaming Category 4 Application to  
19 build a mini casino in Morgantown. The  
20 approximately 82,000 square foot facility hosting  
21 750 slot machines and 30 table games, will provide  
22 both direct and indirect economic benefits to the  
23 surrounding area and to Berks County in general.

24                   The casino will create 275  
25 construction jobs and another 250 permanent jobs

1 when the facility becomes fully operational. These  
2 are jobs with good wages, family-sustaining wages,  
3 and a very big benefit package. The GRCA has  
4 already engaged Penn National Gaming in  
5 conversations about local hiring and we have set up  
6 a series of meetings with the Berks County Workforce  
7 Development Board to coordinate the hiring efforts.

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

19           The influx of many new people coming  
20 to play at the casino will positively impact small  
21 businesses in the area including restaurants and  
22 other food establishments, hotels and retail shops.

23       The casino itself will become a destination,  
24 serving as a gateway to many other amenities,  
25 including tourist destinations throughout Berks

1 County that can be promoted to folks coming in from  
2 outside the area.

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

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

18                   While the aforementioned benefits  
19 represent a clear win for Berks County and  
20 Caernarvon Township, it's important to place the  
21 building of the casino into a much larger context.  
22 For the last several years, the GRCA and our  
23 affiliate organizations have been working  
24 aggressively to promote Berks County as a premier  
25 live, work and play community in an effort to

1 advance our talent attraction and talent retention  
2 efforts.

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

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

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

25                   PRESIDING OFFICER: Andrea McHenry and

1 Ryan Helms on deck.

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

17 A misconception is that sex  
18 trafficking is just happening in our cities in  
19 America. The truth of the matter is sex trafficking  
20 and commercial sex is happening in our cities, our  
21 suburbs, our rural areas, even in small towns like  
22 here in Morgantown. Sex trafficking does not  
23 discriminate. There are certainly socioeconomic  
24 factors that make someone more vulnerable to being  
25 trafficked, such as homelessness, poverty, runaway

1 youth, drug addiction, and prior sexual abuse, just  
2 to name a few.

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

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

22           Traffickers who are selling women and  
23 children seek out lucrative hotspots, such as a  
24 casino. A casino may place a community at increased  
25 risk of sex trafficking and prostitution. Where we

1 add an area with a drug epidemic like we see here in  
2 Berks County, there is an even greater potential to  
3 see a rise in the demand for commercial sex, as drug  
4 use is often a ploy traffickers use, whether they  
5 are targeting someone who's drug addicted, or  
6 getting their victim drug addicted, all as a way to  
7 get a victim to comply and keep them controlled.

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

20           The case of three - the ease of three  
21 main arteries to this casino will certainly help  
22 visitors to get to this casino more easily, but that  
23 as well can be a factor that can increase the demand  
24 for commercial sex. It will not only bring in an  
25 influx of people that we already talked about, but

1 it will make it easier for traffickers to bring  
2 their victims in and out of this area quickly, with  
3 less risk and without being seen.

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

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

24                   Our first responders, our law  
25 enforcement, will they be trained and ready to

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

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

17 PRESIDING OFFICER: Ryan Helms and  
18 Jacob Kurtz on deck.

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

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear you.

24 MR. HELMS: How about now?

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

1                   MR. HELMS: Sorry.

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

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

17                   I'm 47 years old. I've seen what I  
18 think was a good period of time in this county and  
19 I've seen it degrade over the years to a point now  
20 where it's, you know, those jobs are going and it's  
21 tough to find those good-paying jobs. There is  
22 development within the County, but it's not  
23 necessarily always family-sustaining wages. They're  
24 jobs that are like for the working poor,  
25 unfortunately. And I think there's a lot of people

1 that can relate to that. And it's very frustrating  
2 to see that. And that's why I take great pride in  
3 representing people to get them a better wage and  
4 benefit in the construction trades.

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

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

21           And you can't also overlook the fact  
22 that there's 250 permanent jobs that's going to be  
23 available. I mean, they said there's jobs that are,  
24 you know, over \$20 an hour and we need more of those  
25 kinds of jobs here locally. We've been known as the

1 - you know, Reading's one of the poorest cities in  
2 the country. I think that's deplorable. I think  
3 it's horrible that we're noted for that.

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

14                   I'd just like to go on to say that one  
15 of the major attributes of these construction  
16 projects like this is apprenticeship.  
17 Apprenticeship has become a very high-profile term  
18 used these days. You hear a lot about it in  
19 schools. The government's speaking about it a lot.

20                   People are realizing that college is not the only  
21 avenue. The only way that apprenticeships happen is  
22 by having projects like this.

23                   This creates tremendous opportunities  
24 for young people coming out of high school. Even  
25 people - you got a lot of people the try college,

1 it's not working out for them, and adults that have  
2 lost a good paying job and have nowhere to go. And  
3 we offer, top notch training. We have training  
4 facilities housed right in this county and we train  
5 apprentices of all - of all walks of life every day.  
6 This creates new opportunity, projects like this, to  
7 those kinds of people.

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

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

25 PRESIDING OFFICER: Jacob Kurtz with

1 Coleen Painter on deck.

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

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

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

25 We have a good town. We have a good

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

5 Now, I feel we need to be careful about what we  
6 believe. I hear about jobs that will be available.

7 We had jobs come into the Caernarvon Township just  
8 about a year ago. It was called a pipeline. They  
9 didn't hire local people. And you know what  
10 happened? According to my friend who works in the  
11 police force in Reading, a - a spike in crime and  
12 drugs. Let's get real here about people who come  
13 for jobs. And by the way, I didn't know we have an  
14 unemployment problem in this area.

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

20 So, according to proponents of the  
21 casino, there are many advantages when a casino  
22 comes to a community. Then why is it that in all my  
23 research, I find that the opposite is true? Just a  
24 few quotes so we stay truthful. New Jersey  
25 officials admit that the gambling industry is a

1 major cause of family hardships, divorce,  
2 desertions, child abuse, loss of job, debt and loss  
3 of property, alcoholism, and suicide. And I think  
4 it's very interesting that Las Vegas is the suicide  
5 capital of the nation. Hello? Three times the rate  
6 of other cities.

7                   Now let's look at Morgantown. I asked  
8 Siri, you know who that is, what the population is.

9       And she said the population of Morgantown is 384.  
10 What is an attraction that brings a lot of people to  
11 Morgantown and this area? 384 people, but  
12 yesterday, approximately 2,000 - 2,427 people came  
13 here in this region to church. I think that's  
14 significant and I would like to know why at some  
15 planning meetings and some business meetings and  
16 that - don't those people count? Don't they have a  
17 say in what goes on in this area? I think they  
18 should. They are the backbone of this area.

19                   I don't see phone lines for people  
20 addicted to Wal-Mart, maybe we should, but I do see  
21 numbers to call when people get addicted to  
22 gambling. And - and I have a friend who lives a  
23 couple feet from here that - and I quote her. I  
24 went into debt big time. Now if they see me coming  
25 into a casino, they will immediately arrest me.

1 Let's say it. To me that is sad for people to have  
2 to put up with that.

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

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

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

21 Our United Methodist local churches  
22 include members from all the area townships and  
23 boroughs and there's strong family and friendship  
24 ties between our congregations. The same is true  
25 for Caernarvon Township, Berks, and municipalities

1 that border on it. Although residents may pay  
2 property taxes to different local governments, we  
3 are one community. And so it would be unfair for  
4 the Gaming Commission to consider this a Caernarvon,  
5 Berks decision only.

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

14           Our United Methodist Church stands  
15 against gambling in all its forms. To quote our  
16 social principals, gambling is a menace to society,  
17 deadly to the best interests of moral, social,  
18 economic ,and spiritual life, destructive of good  
19 government and good stewardship. The church's  
20 prophetic call is to promote standards of justice  
21 and advocacy that would make it unnecessary and  
22 undesirable to resort to commercial gambling as a  
23 recreation, as an escape or as a means of producing  
24 public revenue or funds for support of charities or  
25 government.

1                   We recognize that the moral argument  
2 against gambling has been lost in Pennsylvania and I  
3 know that my colleagues in ministry who have - or  
4 have also spoken this evening will - have addressed  
5 the social problems that come with a casino.

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

15                   This is not a community like Las Vegas  
16 where what happens here stays here. This is a  
17 community where everybody knows your name and your  
18 business, and we like it that way. These are the  
19 ties that keep our families, our institutions, and  
20 our neighborhoods strong, and we don't want that to  
21 change. And I hope you heard in what the Caernarvon  
22 Township Supervisor had to say that decisions made  
23 by our local officials, especially with regard to  
24 the State, are decided with conscious memory of what  
25 happened when the landfill went in.

1                   Back in the 1980s, the community  
2                   opposed the landfill. The State created New Morgan  
3                   as a separate township and let the landfill come in  
4                   anyway and Caernarvon and its neighborhood -  
5                   neighbors ended up having to put up with the stink,  
6                   without getting any of the revenue. And they're  
7                   afraid that that will happen again with the casino,  
8                   so they're willing to play along. I'm not convinced  
9                   that even the public officials who have signed off  
10                  on this project really want a casino either.

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

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

22                  A small casino so close to bigger  
23                  casinos will not attract people and businesses from  
24                  outside the community. It will just take money from  
25                  local citizens. And this makes sense to me

1 intuitively because although I pastor in Elverson, I  
2 live in Limerick, Montgomery County, which is about  
3 halfway between King of Prussia the site proposed in  
4 Caernarvon. If I were a gambler, I - I wouldn't  
5 come to Morgantown, I'd go to the bigger casino in  
6 King of Prussia.

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

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

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

20                   PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

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

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

25                   MS. GRUNDY: If you can't hear me, let

1 me know, before I get yelled at.

2                   Okay. Good afternoon. I would first  
3 like to thank all of you for your time today. My  
4 name is Liza Grundy, L-I-Z-A, G-R-U-N-D-Y. And I am  
5 the President of the Twin Valley Area Community  
6 Development Association. I'm joined today with  
7 Treasurer Daniel Wodnick, Secretary Jessica  
8 McGettigan and organization members, Betsy  
9 Ballantyne, Cathy Coffman and Kate Shuhler.

10                   The Twin Valley Area Community  
11 Development Association began meeting in the fall of  
12 2017. And in September of 2018 our organization  
13 officially became a Pennsylvania-recognized non-  
14 profit corporation with a seated board. Our group  
15 is currently pursuing our Federal - excuse me,  
16 501(c)(3) status. Before I proceed further, I would  
17 like to share with you our mission statement to help  
18 better understand the purpose and goal of our  
19 organization.

20                   The Twin Valley Area Community  
21 Development Association, TVACDA, strives to build a  
22 stronger, more unified community by supporting  
23 healthy, targeted, sustainable growth. Through  
24 forging strong relationships with municipal and  
25 community leaders, in partnership with local

1 businesses, the TVACDA focuses on protecting our  
2 natural and historic resources while preserving  
3 common community values and culture.

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

16           Our community, which encompasses both  
17 Berks and Chester Counties, is unique and is a  
18 perennial focus for regional business and  
19 residential development. Proof of this is the  
20 current proposed casino project. If this proposed  
21 casino project proceeds forward, our group would  
22 like to extend an offer to Penn National Gaming to  
23 meet with us and discuss ways we can work together  
24 towards a goal of ensuring that our community  
25 greatly and comprehensively benefits from this

1 development and effectively minimizes the potential  
2 negative impact and threats to the standard of  
3 living that we, as residents, have become accustomed  
4 to.

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

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

1 members of the TVACDA.

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

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

20           With all due respect, your  
21 presentation did not really go into depth on how you  
22 plan on supporting all of that. Will our township -  
23 finally, what is the exit strategy for this casino  
24 if it fails? Will our town be left with yet another  
25 vacant building? Another eyesore? Will our

1 township be prepared to offset the loss in revenue  
2 without inflating our taxes to an unrealistic  
3 amount? Who, what and where is a comprehensive plan  
4 B for our community?

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

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

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

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

22 MR. MCGEE: It's submitted online.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay.

24 Michelle Raymond with Brian McMahon on  
25 deck.

1                   MS. RAYMOND: My name is Michelle,  
2 M-I-C-H-E-L-L-E, Raymond, R-A-Y-M-O-N-D. And I'm a  
3 Caernarvon resident.

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

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

22                   The location of the proposed Hollywood  
23 Casino Morgantown, PA Turnpike, 176, and Route 10,  
24 will be strategic in the growth of our community.  
25 The draw of customers will stimulate the existing

1 businesses, provide opportunities for new businesses  
2 and jobs for our residents, and a larger tax base  
3 for Caernarvon Township. Penn National has a  
4 history of being a part of the community in which  
5 they reside, thus we are eager to work together.

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

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

1 township to receive the tax revenue.

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

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

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

1 and once again, we will miss the opportunity as a  
2 community.

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

9 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

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

12 ---

13 BRIAN MCMAHON,  
14 CALLED AS A WITNESS IN THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING, AND  
15 HAVING FIRST BEEN DULY SWORN, TESTIFIED AND SAID AS  
16 FOLLOWS:

17 ---

18 MR. MCMAHON: My name is Brian  
19 McMahon, and I'm a business representative for  
20 Steamfitters Local Union 420 and we have a satellite  
21 office right up the road off of 176 in Flying Hills.  
22 I represent 300 members that live in - here in the  
23 Berks County area. Our members are steamfitters,  
24 pipefitters, pipe welders, and service technicians.  
25 This project will put many of them to work.

1                   A lot of redundant things that I will  
2 read probably. Casinos spur economic growth,  
3 employment, and greater tax revenue to the state and  
4 local governments and growth in local retail sales.  
5 It lowers unemployment rates in the local area, be  
6 it through the construction of the project and by  
7 hiring local residents from Berks County to work at  
8 the casino.

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

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

24                   PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

25                   We are now at the end of our community

1 group list.

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

11 ---

12 (WHEREUPON, A SHORT BREAK WAS TAKEN.)

13 ---

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

25 So, those of the names I have called, if

1 you could please raise your right hand to be sworn  
2 by the court reporter.

3 ---

4 (WHEREUPON, WITNESSES SWORN EN MASSE)

5 ---

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

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

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

24 I brought a copy of this week's Lehigh  
25 Valley Business. This is something that's put out

1 by the chamber. And it's a big article about the  
2 Sands and having meetings there, the hotels, all the  
3 different entertainment options. And it doesn't  
4 even talk about gambling. Now, I - I just want to  
5 make that point that these just aren't gambling  
6 establishments. They're so much more.

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

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

17                   PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

18                   We have Larry Clauser with Janet Caley  
19 on deck.

20                   MR. CLAUSER: Yes. The name's Larry  
21 Clauser, which is spelled, C-L-A-U-S-E-R. First  
22 off, thanks for the privilege to share my thoughts  
23 about this mini casino proposal. I believe the plan  
24 may already be a done deal. I do realize the state  
25 government needs to have revenue to conduct

1 business. However, will such an operation really  
2 generate much in the way of revenue or finances? I  
3 see it more as a - more of a just changing  
4 ownership, money from hand to hand. A change of  
5 ownership.

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

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

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

1 listening.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER: Janet Caley with  
3 Victoria Lingg on deck.

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

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

20 I do not consider myself to be a  
21 political person, but rather a progressive and  
22 visionary thinker who has served on various boards  
23 over the course of my life, including the West  
24 Nantmeal Recreation Board. I prefer, however, being  
25 in my special education classroom encountering young

1 minds and lives, rather than trying to promote my  
2 viewpoints.

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

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

24                   He invited the organization to use the  
25 Pennsylvania Farm Building to promote this worthy

1 cause. Today, this love your neighbor thinking  
2 called the Pennsylvania Relief Sale draws thousands  
3 of visitors and has donated more than \$16.5 million  
4 to worldwide relief efforts. This, my friends, is  
5 in sharp contrast to the goals of the casino,  
6 preying upon the lower income and youth of our  
7 communities, raising revenue for a destructive  
8 industry to better our communities. I think we can  
9 be challenged by the example set by previous  
10 generations and leaders in Morgantown to think of  
11 constructive ways to raise revenue.

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

22           How many of you have looked deeply  
23 into the eyes of young people sitting in your  
24 classes or visiting in your homes and felt the  
25 deeply-rooted hopelessness and pain of children

1 dealing with parents with addictions? It is heart  
2 wrenching. Can we as a community watch the havoc of  
3 addictions in our youth and still say the end  
4 justifies the means? Almost 22 percent of slot  
5 machine users at casinos are in the 18 to 29 age  
6 group. Gambling addictions are most likely to occur  
7 in the vulnerable age groups of 18 to 24 in lower  
8 income families. It does not take a rocket  
9 scientist, or a special education teacher, to  
10 identify that alcohol, prostitution, and gambling  
11 addictions thrive in and around casinos

12                   As a parent, my goal is to push my  
13 children into adulthood by challenging them to think  
14 how their giftings could impact the world in  
15 life-giving ways. We have just been told of all the  
16 job openings available because of the casino being  
17 here. A lot of them are short term, and after  
18 perusing the Penn National Gaming jobs openings  
19 recently, I did indeed see some higher level  
20 professional positions, tucked far away, of course,  
21 from the 24-hour, seven-day a week shift work that I  
22 suspect the majority of the jobs really are,  
23 targeting impressionable college-age students to get  
24 quick cash from tip-oriented settings inside a very  
25 controlled towards profit environment casino floor

1 without windows and clocks to hyper focus its  
2 victims.

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

17                   PRESIDING OFFICER: Victoria Lingg  
18 with Ted Allan on deck.

19                   MS. LINGG: My name is Tori Lingg. I  
20 live in Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County.  
21 There's known to be bog turtles out here. I'm not  
22 an environmentalist, but you better check for bog  
23 turtles. Well, some people - a lady asked me to  
24 find her some bog turtles so she can stop something  
25 in her neighborhood. I don't think money generated

1 from this is going to help with the school tax. One  
2 of the people here from Penn National Gaming said  
3 two percent of the funds would stay local, 54  
4 percent would go to the state. This is so-called  
5 revenue, how much, where and how would it be used.

6 My friend lived in Atlantic City. She  
7 went to high school there. She said Atlantic City  
8 is not a nice place to live, but all the money went  
9 away. We have the Turnpike. The Turnpike is too  
10 expensive to drive on. You look for an alternative  
11 route. I'd like to know where the funds go to.  
12 Somebody told me it's mass transit.

13 Many people who gamble can't afford to  
14 gamble. I'd like to address Pennsylvania - Penn  
15 Gaming, what is the problem and intention of  
16 promoting an addictive and non-productive venue like  
17 gambling? Last week on February 28th, there was a  
18 lady on WEEU in Reading talking about Gamblers  
19 Anonymous. We have Alcoholics Anonymous. You are  
20 creating circumstances of physical and mental  
21 disabilities that taxpayers have to pay for, drugs,  
22 alcohol, prostitution. 400,000 people in  
23 Pennsylvania are on depressants or medication.  
24 There's 70,000 died in the United States in 2016  
25 because of drugs, 49,000 of this was opioids. The

1 long terms of these things like gambling, drugs is  
2 addictive and it's negative.

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

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

21                   Several years ago, there was a kid I  
22 know who was Amish got involved with drugs. Right  
23 now he's 40 years old. He lives in the township I  
24 live in, he's good for nothing. And I - another  
25 lady lived in Churchtown, she blew it on drugs. She

1 set the house on fire, burnt the house down. They  
2 were living in the hotel over here for a while, now  
3 we don't know where they are, but she blew it on  
4 drugs. She has two kids. One is 14, one is about  
5 13.

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

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

19 PRESIDING OFFICER: Ted Allan with  
20 Michele King on deck.

21 MR. ALLAN: Good afternoon. My name  
22 is Ted Allan, T-E-D, A-L-L-A-N. Thank you for the  
23 opportunity this afternoon to share my remarks.  
24 I've lived in this area for about four years, I come  
25 with perhaps a little bit different perspective than

1 many in this room. I moved here from the State of  
2 Ohio. And remember when I came to Berks County, the  
3 realtor telling me, he said people in this county  
4 have deep roots.

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

16           I'm deeply concerned about the impact  
17 that this casino would have in our community. The  
18 things that caused me to move here and choose  
19 Morgantown as a place to live and raise my family  
20 are now in jeopardy. I have family and friends who  
21 were considering moving here and I can tell you that  
22 this changes everything. And if I had to do this  
23 over, I would not choose to live in this community,  
24 had I known that this casino may come here. I would  
25 choose a place further away. My children attend a

1 local school for which I am extremely grateful,  
2 Conestoga Christian School. But I have deep  
3 concerns at the impact this casino will have.

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

20                   This casino or casinos in general  
21 typically tend to focus on that two percent of the  
22 population that comes in, but generate the most  
23 revenue for this casino. They prey on those types  
24 of people. Very negative from a social impact  
25 standpoint.

1 I'm certainly all for economic growth.  
2 I recognize that this area needs that. However,  
3 it's not on the backbones of those who cannot afford  
4 it. And nor is it on the backbone of anybody, quite  
5 frankly, who would contribute in this manner.

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

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

21 So I - I'm here today, obviously, to  
22 share my perspective as somebody who's not lived  
23 here a long time. I've lived in many different  
24 places in my life, but I can tell you this will have  
25 very negative repercussions for a long time to come.

1 It will impact my children, my grandchildren. And  
2 you know, I've heard it said before that things have  
3 a cost, and if the cost of the local community here,  
4 if you're interested in \$1.6 million, the negative  
5 repercussions that will come with that amount of  
6 money simply are not worth it and I urge you not to  
7 do it. Thank you.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER: Michele King with  
9 Samuel Petersheim on deck.

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

22 I am a wife, a mother and I spent the  
23 last 30 years of my life working with families and  
24 children in our community through local churches and  
25 the local school districts and private schools in

1 our sector. As I proceed, please know when I refer  
2 to we or community, I am referring to those signees  
3 in the seven municipalities that make up the Twin  
4 Valley School District and any other municipalities  
5 represented by the signees of the petition with the  
6 exception of the 14 people who signed in favor of  
7 the casino.

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

19                   This particular petition was created  
20 and launched on February 19th after a local meeting  
21 on February 17th in response to the January 30th  
22 announcement of tonight's hearing. It states three  
23 main concerns for our community. A casino will  
24 target the most vulnerable of both our Twin Valley  
25 residents and those in our neighboring rural

1 communities, create a burden on our local  
2 municipalities to provide the infrastructure needed,  
3 and hinder future development as consistent with the  
4 values of our residents. I believe many tonight  
5 have already adjusted - or sorry, have already  
6 addressed many of those concerns.

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

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

25 Of important note, we counted each

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

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

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

1 Oh my gracious.

2 We are not an urban area, nor a  
3 suburban area, which is where casinos typically grow  
4 and thrive. After researching our community, we do  
5 not line up with Penn National Gaming's other  
6 properties. They went to Springettsbury Township  
7 for another proposed mini casino. Their township,  
8 we must encompass all of Twin Valley community in  
9 order to compare at all to Springettsbury Township.  
10 Our community encompasses 88 miles and we are - 88  
11 square miles. We are a rural community by  
12 definition. And we are not an urban or a suburban  
13 community as Reading would be.

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

20 PRESIDING OFFICER: Samuel Petersheim  
21 and Michael Shoup on deck.

22 MR. PETERSCHEIM: Good afternoon, my  
23 name is Samuel Petersheim, last name,  
24 P-E-T-E-R-S-H-E-I-M. Thank you for the opportunity  
25 to share.

1 I'm a resident of Elverson, just east  
2 of here. My wife and I have three young children.  
3 I own property in Morgantown along West Main Street  
4 and it's a house my great-grandfather built circa  
5 1912. I grew up in this community. I went to  
6 kindergarten at the Caernarvon Elementary School  
7 diagonally across the street from here, which is now  
8 an apartment complex. I attended private and public  
9 schools here.

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

20 During that time, he - he, similar to  
21 hundreds of others in the community, were learning  
22 the value of hard work, sharing with others in need,  
23 family values, honesty, trustworthiness and being  
24 content with less than abundant wealth. That house  
25 and barn are long gone now, largely forgotten.

1 However, what have not been forgotten in this  
2 community are the ethics and values. We've long  
3 been a community - a sharing community looking out  
4 for others in need.

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

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

18                   And from its origins, this community  
19 has always been hardworking and industrious,  
20 producing many products like charcoal to fuel the  
21 old lime kiln furnaces, grains to feed hungry  
22 mouths, dairy products, produce fruits, and more  
23 recently, iron ore, truck bodies, fertilizer  
24 spreaders, titanium ingots, vinyl windows and more.  
25       What kind of product does a casino produce?

1 Absolutely nothing. No product that creates wealth.  
2 It is simply the exchange of money from one hand to  
3 another. To put it in the simplest of terms, it's  
4 like cutting off one end of a blanket and sewing it  
5 on the other in an effort to make it longer.

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

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

25           Our fathers, our forefathers had

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

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

20                   Because of our - because our  
21 supervisors, and thank them for their - their  
22 service, because they made their best decision, but  
23 it's different than the sentiment of the people  
24 here. We're imploring you to stop this type of  
25 activity from coming here anywhere else in our

1 region - or anywhere else in our region, especially  
2 just north of here in the township that was made by  
3 the State, which someone else alluded to.

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

14           PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

15           Michael Shoup and Tom Hornberger on  
16 deck.

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

25           AUDIENCE MEMBER: That's right. Call

1 it what it is.

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

8 One of the things that we need to do as a  
9 community, when we're a township supervisor, we're  
10 elected to serve the people, not to lord over them.

11 We're elected to serve our - our members of our  
12 community. And gentlemen of the union, thank you  
13 for coming. Some of you came a distance. I know  
14 you came here in support of the casino. I think  
15 there's a lot more people here from the community,  
16 opposed to it. I'll keep it short so that somebody  
17 else can have a little more time, but thank you.

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

21 MR. STOLTZFUS: Hi, I'm Josh  
22 Stoltzfus, that's S-T-O-L-T-Z-F-U-S. I am here as a  
23 member of the local water authority, although I'm  
24 not representing the water authority, but I just  
25 want to make note that we have spent a significant

1 amount of money in infrastructure improvements over  
2 the last few years. And as stated in the article in  
3 the Reading Eagle on Sunday, over 19,000 gallons a  
4 day in additional usage would be a significant boost  
5 to our revenues and there are a lot of old  
6 infrastructure in the community that needs upgrading  
7 and that would help a lot to go towards that.

8           That being said, I just want to make a  
9 couple of points that I've heard nobody talk about.

10    As far as traffic issues, if anybody's ever been to  
11 the Penn National Hollywood Casino in Grantville,  
12 there's a two-lane road that goes to it, off of 81,  
13 a two-lane road. I've never sat in traffic going to  
14 that location. And also, it is surrounded by farms  
15 as far as the eye can see. So, it's not in an urban  
16 area. There's not a lot of loitering. I've never  
17 seen any crime in that area. It's actually a very  
18 nice facility. There are other things to do at  
19 casinos other than gambling. There's entertainment,  
20 there's shows, there's restaurants.

21           I've also been to the Sands up in  
22 Bethlehem and they've done a nice job as far as  
23 improving that area as well. There's a lot of  
24 business going in there, hotels, there's an event  
25 center. You know, without those facilities, those

1 buildings would just be sitting vacant.

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

5                   PRESIDING OFFICER: Denise Harris.  
6 Denise Harris?

7                   Okay. How about Brian Walls? Mr.  
8 Walls? Lisa Joye?

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

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

1 community or the people about which I care.

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

15 Finally, a casino does not fit with  
16 Morgantown or the surrounding communities because it  
17 does not represent who we are. We are a community  
18 of hardworking people. We are a community filled  
19 with people that care about our families and care  
20 about our neighbors. This community has many people  
21 of faith and great churches. As I drive throughout  
22 the area, I see successful small businesses,  
23 reliable family-owned businesses, manufacturing  
24 companies, and family farms. A casino should not be  
25 a part of our landscape because it does not fit in

1 with us. Thank you for your time.

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

6 Ben Fisher, Steven Beckman, Geoff  
7 Litwin, Stephanie Gibson, Glenn Helman, Rachel  
8 White, Kate Shuhler, Kristen Petersheim, Shawn  
9 Brubacher, Eaton Hopkins, Alfred Pusey, Vernon  
10 Stoltzfus, Kay Peirce, Ivy Fasko, Kathy Marinelli,  
11 Celeste March, Joshua Prat, and Phillip Witman.

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

14 ---

15 (WHEREUPON, WITNESSES SWORN EN MASSE)

16 ---

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

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

24 Ladies and gentlemen, thank you.

25 Although I would like to, I didn't come here today

1 to beg the PGC to stop this casino, to save us. I  
2 didn't come here for that. I didn't come with  
3 statistics. I didn't come to make a morality plea.  
4 It's true, I - I don't want the casino. That is  
5 true. And I suspect, as we've seen in some of the  
6 numbers today, I suspect a properly inclusive poll  
7 of our area would support that, that the vast  
8 majority don't want it here. But I think you're  
9 probably steeled against that and you probably  
10 already know that.

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

16 I'm speaking today as the Chair of the  
17 Board of the Honey Brook Christian Academy. It's a  
18 small Christian school that meets in a church just  
19 few miles from here, where teachers work every year  
20 without any pay, to stand in the gap for students  
21 that grow up in a culture of broken homes, abuse,  
22 poverty, and addiction, all the very things that are  
23 going to follow your casino into this community.  
24 That school, and others like it, stands ready to  
25 care for those left in the lurch of this casino.

1                   Also speaking today is a member of  
2 Calvary Chapel of Honey Brook, which is a small  
3 church planted just nearby the school to share the  
4 love of Jesus with a community that finds nothing  
5 but hopelessness in the shiny things of this world,  
6 which are the very things this casino will use as an  
7 advertising lure to draw people in through its  
8 doors.

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

13                   I'm also speaking today as a volunteer  
14 with U-Turn for Christ, which is a discipleship and  
15 reentry ministry for men and women trapped in a  
16 never-ending cycle of addictions. U-Turn was  
17 planted here near this community to offer hope and  
18 salvation to people that have hit rock bottom,  
19 people that are ready to turn to Jesus with nothing  
20 in their hands but a broken life ruined by the very  
21 sort of addictions that will thrive in the shadow of  
22 this casino. U-Turn and other ministries like it  
23 stand ready to share - to care rather for those left  
24 broken by this casino. But most of all, I'm  
25 standing here today as somebody that's not ashamed

1 to self-identify as a born-again Christian. And I  
2 know well the God that saved me personally from a  
3 life of addiction. That's why I don't despair over  
4 this. See, we're ready for what's coming, not  
5 because we're good people, but because we know a  
6 good God. And if he allows this casino to come to  
7 this town, we can stand assured that he has already  
8 equipped his church to deal with it.

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

18           To be clear, I don't want this casino  
19 here. I believe it'll forever change this community  
20 for the worse. I believe government has a  
21 responsibility to use its power to stop casino  
22 gambling, not to sponsor it and endorse it. When  
23 this casino opens its doors, it's a safe bet to me  
24 that some of my favorite local establishments are  
25 going to close theirs forever, because this casino

1 is going to be built to keep people in, not to send  
2 them into the community where their money could do  
3 some good for us.

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

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

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

22 PRESIDING OFFICER: Geoff Litwin with  
23 Stephanie Gibson on deck.

24 MR. LITWIN: My name's Geoff Litwin,  
25 G-E-O-F-F-R-E-Y, Litwin, L-I-T-W-I-N. I'm a proud

1 member and officer of IBEW Local 743. I've been  
2 involved in the community by volunteering in this  
3 area as a coach, Greater Governor Mifflin League  
4 member, Reading United Labor Council, and Chair of  
5 the City of Reading Electrical Board.

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

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

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

1 community.

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

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

19                   I support the Gaming License and this  
20 casino project, but on a side note, hearing what  
21 everybody's saying, not everybody - not everybody  
22 that's going to visit this casino is terrible. Drug  
23 addiction, gambling addiction, anything like that.  
24 The construction workers, somebody had mentioned  
25 earlier that we're - it brought drugs, violence and

1 crime, whatever it is. We are members of the  
2 community as well, and we - we are your coaches,  
3 we're your Boy Scout and Girl Scout leaders. We're  
4 everything in your community. We're also a part of  
5 it.

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

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

15 PRESIDING OFFICER: Stephanie Gibson  
16 with Glen Helman on deck.

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

20 I'm a mom. Simple as that. I'm here  
21 today to voice my opposition to the planning of the  
22 Penn National Casino in Morgantown, PA, Caernarvon  
23 Township. I am a longtime resident of this  
24 community. I've lived in the same house in Elverson,  
25 Elverson Borough, Caernarvon Township since 1994.

1 My husband and I decided to settle here for the  
2 small-town feel and its sense of community and  
3 friendship.

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

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

20                   Being part of a community as quaint -  
21 this quaint means we look for one another. We look  
22 - we look forward to being together. We know one  
23 another. We know just about everyone. It's - maybe  
24 not their names all the time, but we definitely  
25 recognize their faces. We will no longer have that

1 sense of safety or community tightness with so many  
2 strangers or transients passing through.

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

18 Why did Caernarvon Township opt in  
19 before the community had a chance to read,  
20 understand and digest this huge risk and undertaking  
21 to our community? I have read multiple articles on  
22 communities before and after casino life. All  
23 pretty much say the same thing; crime goes up. And  
24 it's - and it's the community that suffers, not the  
25 casino.

1 Penn National has plenty of money to  
2 protect itself from who's going to - but who is  
3 going to protect the community and its citizens who  
4 have lived here most of our lives? Who is going to  
5 make sure your sons and daughters don't become part  
6 of the problem or a statistic or a victim? Who is  
7 going to make - what about the community pool right  
8 next door? Who's going to protect all those children  
9 swimming, having a fun, oblivious time with their  
10 friends, while someone next door is watching them?

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

17 National Penn (sic), you're absolutely  
18 correct in your research. You did a great job.  
19 This small town and community is the perfect place,  
20 the perfect place to plop a casino. It's open,  
21 under developed, quiet, quaint, major highways dump  
22 you right to the mouth of the proposed lot. Plenty  
23 of room for growth and you have a enough money to  
24 push the deal through because not many will argue.  
25 Or at least you thought.

1                   After all, think of all the new  
2 businesses and the money brought in the area, or at  
3 least you think they'll come. This is a huge win-  
4 win for Penn National, but for Caernarvon Township  
5 and its quaint little community we worked so hard to  
6 keep all these years -

7                   PRESIDING OFFICER: Ms. Gibson.

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

10                  PRESIDING OFFICER: Ms. Gibson, your  
11 time is up. If you'd like to submit your comments -  
12 .

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

15                  PRESIDING OFFICER: Ms. Gibson? Ms.  
16 Gibson?

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

19                  PRESIDING OFFICER: Ms. Gibson.

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

22                  PRESIDING OFFICER: We will now  
23 suspend the hearing.

24                               Glenn Helman? Glenn Helman? Rachel  
25 White with Kate Shuhler on deck.

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

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

18                   The economic benefit being touted many  
19 - most that I've heard is that a casino will  
20 revitalize the township. I believe there are  
21 circumstances when casinos revitalize townships. I  
22 do not believe the proposed Morgantown Casino is one  
23 of those cases. Alan Mallach wrote an article,  
24 Casinos and Cities: Can They Live Together? It  
25 outlines the ways to maximize casino benefits in a

1 township. And of the worst-case scenario, he says  
2 putting a casino on an unused site outside a city  
3 center near an interstate highway exit may minimize  
4 traffic and crime effects on the city, but at the  
5 cost of essentially eliminating the possibility of  
6 positive, economic spinoff effects. This is exactly  
7 what Penn National's proposing.

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

17           Since the casino will include a  
18 restaurant and food court, there will be no need for  
19 visitors to leave the casino to find food. We have  
20 a great deal of locally-owned restaurants. These  
21 restaurants will most likely lose local customers to  
22 the casino eateries. However, more concerning to me  
23 than the questionable promise of economic stimulus  
24 is the almost certain erosion of the fabric of this  
25 community, which I believe the purpose of this

1 meeting is to assess whether this is an appropriate  
2 place for the casino, whether it matches the  
3 community, and it does not.

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

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

24           If 15 and 16-year-olds can immediately  
25 see the incongruity of bringing a casino here, then

1 the Gaming Control Board must seriously consider  
2 whether a casino is in the best interest of this  
3 community. We are a community built on hard work  
4 and caring for one another. Casinos do not foster  
5 that kind of fellowship. Rather they encourage  
6 isolation and deception through slot machines  
7 designed to trap people into their world, card  
8 tables designed to make you suspicious of everyone  
9 else. None of that matches the ideologies of the  
10 Tri-County area.

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

19                   And I agree with the statement on  
20 Caernarvon Township's website that the township is a  
21 highly-desirable location for families with  
22 children, but gambling addiction destroys families,  
23 with a national rate of approximately two to three  
24 percent of the population having a gambling problem.  
25 And 750 proposed slot machines, the proposed casino

1 will have about 20 problem gamblers each time  
2 they're at maximum capacity.

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

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

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

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

23                   Casinos are often sold to the public  
24 as a net positive for tax revenue generation, job  
25 creation and economic development. However, the

1 experiences seen in areas such as Atlantic City and  
2 Camden do not fully support the thesis that  
3 legalized gambling offers much economic benefit to  
4 the local community. Instead, we know there will be  
5 real law enforcement and societal costs that will be  
6 borne by Morgantown tax payers and our children.

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

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

19           Youth Spark is leading non-profit  
20 dedicated to rescuing youth at high risk of  
21 exploitation. They posted an article on February  
22 8th of this year from Dr. Alex Trudeau. The study  
23 was conducted in the Metro-Atlanta area. He stated;  
24 law enforcement agencies, victim service providers  
25 and public policy advocates have been working

1 closely together over the last decade to combat the  
2 problem of child sex trafficking in Atlanta.

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

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

19           One source reference for this  
20 conclusion was the result of a fascinating study  
21 conducted by the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.  
22 The study surveyed over 6,100 members of the general  
23 public residing in the Greater Las Vegas area. An  
24 analysis of the survey clearly provided significant  
25 results that patrons of casinos were 17 percent more

1 likely than the average survey respondent to have  
2 paid for sex in the prior year.

3                   The problem gamblers were 260 percent  
4 more likely to indulge in this unsafe behavior.  
5 This connects prostitution and gambling and explains  
6 why prostitution rates skyrocket near casinos, with  
7 human trafficking as an inevitable byproduct of the  
8 need to bring supply and demand into the casino.  
9 Per Dr. Trudeau, though it was not the study's  
10 primary aim, the researchers nonetheless documented  
11 trafficked children obtaining customers directly  
12 from the nearby casino.

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

21                   They have stated, human trafficking  
22 has increasingly gained our attention over the last  
23 few years as perhaps the most important human rights  
24 issue of our time. Often we envision trafficking  
25 happening in the developing world, but not here in

1 the United States. In 2016, the National Human  
2 Trafficking Hotline received over 26,000 calls of  
3 suspected incidents of human trafficking.

4 Traffickers often market their victim on the  
5 internet and sometimes use unwitting casinos and  
6 hotels as places of exploitation.

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

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

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

25 PRESIDING OFFICER: Kristen Petersheim

1 with Shawn Brubacher on deck.

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

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

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

15 As you may know, and I hope you do  
16 know, this is a town split between counties. And as  
17 I'm sure you're also aware, townships and other  
18 jurisdictions in Pennsylvania were given a very  
19 brief time frame, just under two months, to opt out  
20 of being a casino location. In spite of this, and  
21 it being over Thanksgiving and Christmas, the entire  
22 County of Lancaster managed to opt out. That is  
23 extraordinary. And what is done in response to that?

24 They just sneak right over the Lancaster County  
25 line, pick a town that's even partially located in

1 Lancaster County, and plop a casino.

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

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

15                   On Penn National's webpage for quote,  
16 responsible gambling, end quote, they discuss many  
17 risks associated with gambling and for the sake of  
18 time I will address only one of those here today.  
19 Unattended minors. What Penn National is selling is  
20 so addictive that apparently some parents will just  
21 leave their children in the car, for who knows how  
22 long, while they go inside to get their fix. We  
23 don't want a business selling something so dangerous  
24 that they have to have special policies in place to  
25 try to prevent the abuse and neglect of children

1 that would otherwise occur. Why is this something  
2 we want in Morgantown? Why is this something we  
3 want to endorse in exchange for the promise of maybe  
4 lower taxes? And even so, that's not money I would  
5 want any part of.

6 In a November 18 edition of the  
7 Pottstown Mercury paper, Jeff Morris of Penn  
8 National is quoted as saying quote, the proposed  
9 80,000 square foot facility will be visible as  
10 vehicles approach from all direction - all  
11 directions, end quote. Visible from all directions.  
12 I know some regions might love the Hollywood feel,  
13 but that's not the kind of landmark we want. A  
14 casino is not a good representation of our  
15 community, as I know you've heard today. And it is  
16 not what we want for our signature business here.

17 We oppose this because we love our  
18 community. We love our neighbors and we even care  
19 about our fellow Pennsylvanians traveling by on the  
20 Turnpike. The excuse, it's just going to happen  
21 somewhere so we might as well get some money from  
22 it, just isn't good enough. We are a better  
23 community than that, and I would ask that this Board  
24 consider the interests of the people that live here  
25 and what we want for our home area. We are not

1 opposed to all development, but we are adamantly  
2 opposed to this one. Thank you very much.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER: Shawn Brubacher?  
4 Shawn Brubacher? Eaton Hopkins? Eaton Hopkins?  
5 Alfred - with Alfred Pusey on deck.

6 MR. HOPKINS: Eaton Hopkins,  
7 E-A-T-O-N, H-O-P-K-I-N-S. Thanks for having me.

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

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

23 That resistance feels like the whole  
24 process has, frankly, been underhanded from the  
25 purposeful, under-the-radar approval process that

1 almost no one locally knew about to scheduling a  
2 meeting at four o'clock on a Monday afternoon that  
3 would be very difficult for many people that work  
4 for a living to get to. As a result, people that  
5 typically quietly go about their business are, quite  
6 frankly, worked up and organized in opposition.

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

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

1 other family-oriented residential communities.

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

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

19                   This is not what these people are  
20 about. And I'll finish by saying this, with  
21 respect, I appreciate you guys' time. I appreciate  
22 you being here. I would think that part of your job  
23 is to - is to represent and vote fairly or however  
24 the decision is made, based upon the desires of the  
25 people that live in the community, quite frankly,

1 not the desires of Penn National. And I'm a - I'm a  
2 businessman. I appreciate business. I'm a - I'm a  
3 - I'm a capitalist.

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

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

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

24 MR. PUSEY: My name's Alfred,  
25 P-U-S-E-Y, Pusey. And I want to say thank you for

1 allowing us to speak, PA Gaming Control Board, and  
2 thank everyone for being here. This is addressed  
3 mainly to our neighbors, fellow citizens and the  
4 supervisors of the Caernarvon Township.

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

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

23 Well, like others, my neighbor that  
24 talked, Mr. Kurtz, and others, we live on Maple  
25 Drive, which is against the Turnpike looking at

1 where the casino is. And we're going to see this  
2 for miles? You're not going to put a wall up and  
3 sound barrier along the Turnpike? That's - that's -  
4 I'd like to move if that's the case.

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

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

22           PRESIDING OFFICER: Vernon Stoltzfus  
23 and Kay Peirce on deck.

24           MR. V. STOLTZFUS: Hi, my name is  
25 Vernon Stoltzfus, V-E-R-N-O-N, S-T-O-L-T-Z-F-U-S.

1                   My wife and I have four kids and we  
2 both live in - lived the area all our lives. I find  
3 this whole idea of putting a casino in our community  
4 very troubling, because of the many negative effects  
5 on individuals and families. Let me list a few.

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

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

17                   I'm concerned that bringing this kind  
18 of business into our community will have adverse  
19 repercussions to our youth, who are already  
20 struggling to find their way in life. Is putting  
21 this casino in our community the best our local  
22 government and State of Pennsylvania can do to  
23 contribute to helping our youth grow up to be  
24 responsible and productive human beings who give  
25 back to society? Why do we even consider allowing a

1 facility to open in our community that preys on  
2 individuals that are vulnerable to making bad  
3 choices?

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

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

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

22 Now, I have family that live close to  
23 the Grantville location. Very close. They see no  
24 signs of prostitution, or drug dealing, or human  
25 trafficking in their area. They - there's no

1 reports on their news channels about any of those  
2 issues.

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

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

19                   And right now, I have a sick husband  
20 at home, so I'm rushing to get through this so I can  
21 go home to him. But I am for the casino because it  
22 will bring a lot of jobs to this community. But I  
23 think people are stressing on issues we already have  
24 in this community. And I wish we didn't. I wish  
25 there was ways we could fix it. More police may

1 help that. The casino could bring a bigger police  
2 force, a better fire department, better road  
3 conditions for our neighborhoods, and better tax  
4 revenue for our community.

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

8 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

9 Ivy Fasko with Kathy Marinelli on  
10 deck.

11 MS. FASKO: Good evening, everybody.

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

19 But I'm - I'm so surprised to hear  
20 people hypothecating all these horrible, horrible  
21 things that they feel are going to come from a  
22 casino. Now, I'm not sitting here with my blinders  
23 on. I know that things will come. I know that we  
24 already have them as our last addressee said. But I  
25 don't think that we should allow those to be

1 blinders to all of us when we think about maybe the  
2 benefits also that we can get. I think that  
3 although it wasn't brought up by our gentlemen who  
4 addressed us earlier, the casino has a - a very  
5 active program, to my understanding, about taking  
6 care of people with gambling addictions and/or with  
7 problems in the community and I guess maybe we  
8 should hear more from you guys about that. I don't  
9 know if we have time for that tonight.

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

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

1 how they're going to - what they're going to do to -  
2 I don't know, to run their life.

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

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

22                   I think in 2017, the stat was that we  
23 got \$1 million in gambling revenue directly assigned  
24 to Caernarvon Township, which amounts to something  
25 like \$673 per person, that reduced your taxes. That

1 was a direct reduction to your taxes, whether you  
2 know it or not. You all say you don't see any  
3 benefit, but - and I didn't know about it either.  
4 So once I had gone on the internet and started  
5 researching, well what is the benefit, it's not just  
6 the amount that we'll get from the gaming, from the  
7 - what do you call them? The slot machines and the  
8 tables, you know. But there's a broader sense of  
9 money that we get assigned to us through the State's  
10 program.

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

20 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

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

23 PRESIDING OFFICER: Kathy Marinelli  
24 with Celeste March on board.

25 MS. MARINELLI: Hi, my name is Kathy

1 Marinelli. That's Kathy with a K, and Marinelli is  
2 M-A-R-I-N-E-L-L-I. Thank you for allowing me to  
3 share my thoughts.

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

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

24 Anyhow, I have a question and a couple  
25 of comments. My question is, how can such a

1 controversial project as a casino come here and  
2 without a vote by the community that it will impact?  
3 I understand there was over 1,000 similar  
4 communities across Pennsylvania that opted out and  
5 they didn't open the door for this kind of business.  
6 Why didn't they do that? Is there some negative  
7 issues that they face that we're ignoring here? So  
8 I ask, would we dare put the hope of revenue above  
9 what's the best interest for our families?

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

24 I think, isn't gambling a form of  
25 theft? I've even heard that slot machines are

1 sometimes called a one-arm bandit. So, what does  
2 gambling teach kids? Because kids are my heart. Is  
3 it that they can get rich quick? When they see  
4 their parents go gambling, what lessons do they  
5 learn? And when their mom and dad waste money at a  
6 casino and the funds just aren't there for such  
7 things as a sport team, or karate, or music lessons,  
8 or other things, what are the kids learning?

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

18           So, I ask in closing; are our  
19 decisions about this casino based strictly on money?  
20 Scripture says that a wise man builds his house upon  
21 rock. Building a casino surely is building on sand.  
22 Others have already addressed all the casino issues  
23 of crime, drugs, drunk driving, bankruptcy,  
24 depression, et cetera. But I ask you, for the sake  
25 of our kids, our children, consider the effect this

1 could have on our families. I hear the concerns  
2 expressed by fellow citizens in this fine community  
3 and I strongly ask you, please deny the request of  
4 National Penn (sic) Gaming to have this located in  
5 Morgantown or any of our nearby areas. Thank you  
6 for listening.

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

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

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

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

1 surrounded by farm land.

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

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

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

1 making any quick decisions.

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

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

17                   PRESIDING OFFICER: Joshua Prat with  
18 Phillip Witman on deck.

19                   MR. PRAT: Hi, I'm Josh Prat.  
20 J-O-S-H, P-R-A-T. I'm a union electrician with the  
21 IBEW. I'm also a veteran of our military, the U.S.  
22 Army. I come in favor or the casino - thank you. I  
23 come in favor of the casino. A lot of opinions and  
24 facts were shared here today and I have to be  
25 honest, a lot of energy is opposed gambling.

1           A simple Google search would show that  
2 only 6.6 percent of North Americans are pathological  
3 gamblers. The community is worried if your children  
4 will be affected. I have two children myself, ages  
5 five and seven. Are we raising our children in the  
6 casino parking lot? I don't think so. Tablets and  
7 electronics are where you should point your finger  
8 out to - that disrupt your kids' lives and make them  
9 make bad decisions.

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

18           PRESIDING OFFICER: Philip Witman?

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

23           This - this is kind of some history -.

24           MS. MANDERINO: Philip, can you spell  
25 your last name?

1                   PRESIDING OFFICER: Yes, please.

2                   MR. WITMAN: Okay.

3                   Philip, with one L, and Witman, with  
4 no H, W-I-T-M-A-N. I grew up in Morgantown in the  
5 '50s and '60s - let me get this closer - in the '50s  
6 and '60s, and as any - and as any community, growth  
7 is expected and normal. I remember when a  
8 steakhouse came. I don't know if any of you here -  
9 it was the talk of the town. It's currently a  
10 nursing - or no, it's a nursery school. It also  
11 before was a nursery school after the steakhouse  
12 left, it was a -.

13                   AUDIENCE MEMBER: A church.

14                   MR. WITMAN: It had been a church, but  
15 it had also had been one of the grades for Twin  
16 Valley, they called it Hamburger High or something  
17 like that at the time. Along with McDonald's, the  
18 talk was if we only had a Pizza Hut. I don't know  
19 if you ever heard that, but I know when McDonald's  
20 came we were thinking well, we need a Pizza Hut. We  
21 could be fulfilled with a Pizza Hut. Then the  
22 gigantic Morgantown Outlet Mall, or MOMs, as those  
23 of you that are familiar with the area. That came  
24 in and it's now an enclosed space with limited vital  
25 use. It's a huge space, but it's pretty much empty.

1                   We heard of a trash to steam facility,  
2 the New Morgan Victorian Village, anyone?  
3 Disneyworld East? Never materialized. That was all  
4 in the surround - supposedly on the surroundings of  
5 old Grace mine. Many businesses, including  
6 industries, thrived here while others did not. Many  
7 of these have contributed to the productivity of the  
8 surrounding area and others did not. Some never  
9 materialized and others were short lived.

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

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

24                   I was part of the first class to  
25 graduate 1965 - actually, my elementary school is

1 just not here anymore, but I went to elementary  
2 school in Morgantown and walked there. But the  
3 first - Twin Valley High School, I was the first  
4 class - I was a member of the first class that  
5 graduated in '65. And that's starting from seventh  
6 grade there. After college, Spot High School. And  
7 I've always focused on the importance of science in  
8 our daily lives.

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

20                   This is science. And despite some of  
21 the leadership in our country today that ignore  
22 science, the truth needs to come out. Casinos may  
23 look very sparkly inside and out, but there's no  
24 tangible product of a casino that can truly benefit  
25 our surrounding community. The casino - any casino

1 coming is out of character for our particular area.  
2 And I believe that the majority living here, a  
3 business that's not wanted.

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

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

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

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

14 PRESIDING OFFICER: Yes.

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

17 Our first community speaker, Mr.  
18 Rohrer, raised the issue of redactions to our  
19 application to the Board. The applications are  
20 redacted in a standard form following 1206(f) of the  
21 Gaming Act with respect to confidential information.  
22 It's a standard approach, which the Board puts in  
23 place. He specifically called out the question with  
24 respect to bribery. I want to firmly put on the  
25 record that our answer to that question is no. And

1 if the Board wishes to release that one question,  
2 the answer to that question, we have no objection to  
3 the same. Thank you.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr.  
5 King.

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

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What is the website?

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

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

19 So the record in this matter will  
20 remain open and the transcript, as well as all the  
21 written comments received, will be given to all the  
22 Board members for their consideration. Then the  
23 Board at its convenience will schedule this matter  
24 to be heard at a future public Board meeting in  
25 Harrisburg.

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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.

\* \* \* \* \*

HEARING CONCLUDED AT 7:35 P.M.

\* \* \* \* \*

CERTIFICATE

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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.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Court Reporter

Joshua Lee Hess