

THE VILLAGE OF OAK HALL

22 MAY 22

Sirs :

Please DO NOT allow
a gambling casino to be put
at the NITTANY MAZE of the
College Township property.

We have lived here in
Oak Hall which is less than
3 miles away plus the same
distance from PENN STATE
UNIVERSITY. There's no need
for a casino !

Stan and
Darlene
Smith
BOHNSBORO PA
16827

111 LINDEN HALL ROAD,

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Cheryl Bohn <bohnc Cheryl@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2022 4:47 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Casino

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

I am strongly opposed to a gambling casino in the Nittany Mall. There are so many undesired repercussions to such a proposal that it is difficult to believe that such an initiative has come this far forward in the first place, other than obscene money grabbing on the part of the proposers! If the mall no longer has enough paying occupants, it's owners must listen to our citizens who want to keep out the potential for misuse of our large student population and other low income individuals who could damage their finances needed for housing, transportation and food with gambling debt. Moreover, gambling and crime often go hand-in-hand. Surely there are other uses for the mall. And surely it's owners would prefer to be good citizens and neighbors in our beautiful town.
Please don't allow this casino!

Cheryl Bohn
State College, PA

Sent from my iPad

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Jason L <jasonh16p@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2022 7:21 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] When will State College casino open?

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Dear,
I would like to give my strongest support for this casino. It will be great for the local economy and life. I'm wondering any updates on it? When will it open? Thanks.
Best,
Jason

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: jmc628@juno.com
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2022 7:25 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External]

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My name is Justin Collins. I am writing to let you know I still oppose the proposed casino for the Nittany Mall. It will bring crime and addiction to our community.

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Mary Gage <gagehmj@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2022 11:20 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Opposition to the Casino

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To Whom it may concern

I would like to register my opposition to the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall.

Casinos are for red light areas or big cities, They can be used to launder money and they can encourage drugs, crime and prostitution. This project seems to me just another way to get money out of the pockets of people who can't afford to gamble. The place for a Casino is a resort or a big city - not Central Pennsylvania,, and especially not near to a university. Please don't open one in State College.

your sincerely

Mary Gage

Mary Gage

www.marygage.net

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Rob Fillmann <rfillguy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2022 5:01 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] I oppose the addition of a Casino in State College, PA!

***ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

I am a 41 year resident of State College and I strongly oppose the addition of a casino at the Nittany Mall or any other location in the State College area.

Please do not allow this!

Sincerely,
Rob Fillmann

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Clara Drummond <clarajd@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 12:00 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] casino in Nittany Mall

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Hello,

Writing to let you know that as someone who resides in Centre County, I am firmly AGAINST having a casino in the Nittany Mall. I request that the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board deny the license for the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall.

Thank you,
Clara Drummond
232 S. Patterson St.
State College PA 16801

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: R Demorest <yoginiraylenei@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 3:41 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] opposition to casino in Nittany Mall

***ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

Good Afternoon,

I just wanted to take a moment to share my opposition to the proposed casino in the Nittany Mall in State College PA. As a resident of State College - I am strongly against the addition of a casino to our community. I won't lecture with all the reasons and research. But suffice it to say I am confident that there is no good - short term or long term - that will come to this community by having a casino.

Thank You for your time and consideration,

Raylene Demorest

Spring St.

State College PA

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Noel Habashy <noel.habashy@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 4:22 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Opposed to Nittany Mall Casino

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

Dear sir or madam,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed casino at Nittany Mall. While I am eager to embrace change, new economic opportunities, and even added entertainment within the community, I am deeply concerned about the addition of a casino to the State College area. The prevalence of program gambling is extremely concerning. As a community that is nearly 50% college students, the susceptibility of this population to developing problem gambling ought to be taken into consideration when deciding to add a casino to this community. As someone who works with college students at Penn State, this proposed casino is especially concerning in light of the increase of social isolation and mental health concerns among college students.

I do hope the casino will be rejected as any added benefits are far outweighed by the likely negative consequences.

Thank you for your consideration!
Noel Habashy
State College, PA

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: John Pitterle <johnpitterle@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 9:19 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Absolutely NO Casino in Nittany Mall/State College

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Board Clerk,

Considering all of the opposition to the casino in State College, it should be a no-brainer decision to reject and shut down the possibility of legalizing such gambling in Centre County. About 1,100 people have signed an on-line petition against the casino. About 1,000 people have signed a hard copy petition opposing the casino. I believe there is not much overlap of signatures on these two petitions. This represents a very significant percentage of area residents. Thus, it should be a very easy decision.

I'm sure you are well aware of statistical trends. When any number of people voice their opinion, there are always more people with similar views who have not (yet) voiced their views.

The number of people opposing the casino compared to those in support of the casino is very overwhelming! This is just one more reason it should be a very simple, no-brainer decision to reject the casino.

Atlantic City used to be a much nicer place. However, now that gambling has been legalized there for a while, it is not (as) safe to go out at night. Gambling brings crime, drugs, messes up lives, and brings much more undesirable activities. We do not want and do not need these in State College.

This area is very safe and has a good reputation. We do not want to lose this and legalizing gambling would do and bring about the exact opposite of what we desire in this region.

Gambling typically cripples some of the most vulnerable people. Some of these will be poor people and some will be Penn State students. Why would you want to willingly allow gambling to come to this area knowing that some lives are going to be significantly messed up?

It makes absolutely no sense to bring gambling to this region. That seems like it is as illogical and as bad as helping a 12-year-old to drink alcohol or do drugs. Just plain bad and completely unnecessary. Why do you want to even consider allowing something that will hurt a number of people?

Please do your job. Listen to the nearly 2,000 people from this area who have clearly indicated they do not want a casino here. Please do not ignore the many constituents of this region.

Gambling is NOT wanted here.

Please hear our voices and say no. Stop this casino dead in its tracks. We do not want our community to go downhill. We don't want lives to be messed up.

It should be a very simple "no" vote.

Very Sincerely,

John Pitterle

108 Kuhns Lane
State College, PA 16801
(About 2 miles from Nittany Mall)

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Kalp, Derek Lindbergh <dlk153@psu.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 10:09 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Stop the Nittany Mall Casino

***ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

Please, do not grant the license for this casino. It will only prey on those who can't afford to lose money on gambling as well as our local college student population, while making a few investors very rich. This is not the kind of development that supports or builds community. It spurs other businesses nearby that further take advantage of people such as paycheck cashing centers and pawn shops. You have the power to save thousands of lives from financial ruin and prevent the decline of the surrounding neighborhood. Please do not let the people down who are working hard to make their community a safer and healthier place to live.

Respectfully,

Derek Kalp, RLA
(he/him/his)
Staff Landscape Architect
Eco Action Club Advisor

Penn State University
Office of Physical Plant
204 Physical Plant Building
University Park, PA 16802
(814) 571-0152 (mobile)

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Dorothy Bellissimo <dorothybellissimo@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 1:23 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External]

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I am opposed to the building of a casino at the Nittany mall.

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Patricia Thompson <redhatpat41@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 10:35 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Casino

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Please approve the Category 4 casino at the Nittany Mall.

Patricia Thompson
Bellefonte, PA

Sent from my iPad

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: gail ruggiero <jgrugg21@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 11:32 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External]

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I do not see anything wrong with the casino . It will bring money into the area no difference then penn state games . Except it will be better secured then the young people partying at the games and rioting

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Marsh, John Edmond <jem55@psu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 8:04 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Casino

ATTENTION: *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

Adding my voice to those who think the State College casino would do much, much more harm for our community than good.

JM

John Marsh
Professor of English
Acting Head, Department of English
Penn State University
405 Burrowes Building
University Park, PA 16802
(814)-863-2627

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Bob Bauer <rjbauer@earthlink.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 9:50 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Re: casino

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It is my belief that the board has already made up their minds to put in the casino no what the people say.

The bad thing will be the people that can't say NO to their addiction will be there till they have no more money left.

When they come back the next day where did the money come from?

Robert Bauer

Retired State Trooper

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Christine Baer <cbaer28@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 10:29 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] NO CASINO!!

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

As a Penn State alumni, and the mother of an incoming freshman at PSU, I implore you to say NO to a casino in Happy Valley. State College is no place for a casino. Think of the negative impacts this could have on the students at the university and the residents of this picturesque, happy town. Happy Valley is for football games, hiking and other outdoor activities, a lively but family-friendly downtown, university life... NOT A CASINO.

Thank you for your consideration,
Christine Baer
PSU Alumni 1995
Parent of Class of 2026

28 Surrey Glen
Wilton, CT 06897
203-761-8786

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Valerie Burnett <yellow5132@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 1:46 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] NO Casino at the Nittany Mall!
Attachments: Donut_Economy_Ideal_vs_Current.pdf;
UN_Report_Extreme_Poverty_and_Human_Rights_United_States_2018.pdf

***ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

Dear Gaming Control Board Member:

I urge you to NOT allow a mini casino to be established at the Nittany Mall.

This morning I woke up to mourning for children, parents, extended families, educators, a community, and a nation because, once again, we failed our children. Gun manufacturers make record profits year after year on the premise that someone in the government is going to take their guns away. As a nation we profit off of the war machine that we have helped to stoke and create around the world. We failed to share enough life saving information and vaccines to curb the COVID pandemic. For lack of accurate information and affordable health care for everyone we can pride ourselves on having the most deaths per capita in the WORLD from COVID. Our life expectancy pre-COVID was 3 years less than other developed nations; our life expectancy is now 5 years less. And yet people fight for and proclaim that they are "pro-life." Our priorities and actions are anything but pro-life as a nation. The climate crisis has displaced millions of people here and around the globe. Our addictions to fossil fuels, misinformation, disinformation, a resistance to changing for a better future, and greed keep us from shifting to renewable resources. We are a nation in decline. With all of the challenges that come with the climate crisis - including violence - we need more people to participate in effective solutions. It is time to pick ourselves up, as a nation, and stop talking about relying on profiting from entertainment, weaknesses and illnesses to provide funds to run our commonwealth and our nation. It is time to stop playing games to provide money for children's education, senior services, and the lives of families. It is time to step up and expect everyone, especially the wealthiest, to pay their FAIR share in taxes to support a quality of life that the richest nation on the planet CAN afford for everyone here! A mini casino solves none of these world class problems. It isn't even a form of healthy entertainment for human beings! I say NO to building a casino at the Nittany Mall.

In an area where we already have an extreme shortage of workers and affordable housing I cannot see how a casino could do anything except exacerbate problems that already exist in our local community. We already navigate ridiculous issues and regulation because of an overabundance and overreliance on alcohol in this area - and it is NOT the kids I am talking about! Add to the mix desperate people gambling their lives away in an attempt to improve their circumstances that frankly emanate out of extreme inequality here, in the US, and around the globe (the UN Report on extreme poverty and human rights violations in the US is attached). Some people have too much while others have not enough to live. That scarcity in resources for the common good - water, food, housing, walkable & bikeable communities, robust & affordable public transit, health care, public libraries, education, even equal access to voting rights for a representative government, and all of the other things necessary to support human life - exist here in State College and the surrounding area. All for a lack of ability of too many people to care about their fellow humans. To care enough to support an effective government, the one buffer between people and greed.

What we need instead of a casino is a FAIR share tax plan in Pennsylvania and in the United States to fund an equitable and basic quality of life for everyone from cradle to grave. We need a sustainable economy such as the Doughnut Economy proposed by the economist Kate Raworth (a PDF of the ideal model vs our current situation from Wikipedia is attached). The center circle of the doughnut hole represents the bare minimum level for basic human needs, including

the United Nations Sustainability Goals; the outer circle of the doughnut represents our environmental boundaries for our life support system called Earth - the sweet spot between these two boundaries creates a regenerative economy that supports humans and life on Earth. We need to come together to solve issues of sustaining human life on Earth. Instead we are offering more distractions that keep many people from being engaged in community building and proactive social activities. A surreal casino setting can certainly make it easier for people to "check out of life" and into a fantasy land while trust between people and a belief that we can do better as a civilization disintegrates.

Yes, there is a time and place for fun; however, a casino with 350-400 FTE employees is not simply a small stopover for some fun. This is a region that already has questionable strategies to get other people's money into our local economy instead of taxing the wealthiest people. We leave basic necessities in life to the "free market" where only the poorest pay the most in taxes. We can do so much better!

I am all too familiar with the story of Atlantic City. It went from a nice family oriented community to a vision created by an outsider who fractured the city and then left the town a mess. The people proposing this do care about the area, and yet, they care far more about money and not having to pay taxes. We don't need more money in this area. We don't need more charity. We need more caring about people. We need more wealthy people paying their FAIR share in taxes. We need more employers treating the people who work for them more fairly and by following labor laws. This casino is not about meeting a need for this area. If it was about meeting a need then the building would be converted into affordable housing, adding another branch to our public library, or even to provide local organic produce year round -- these are things we need in this area, NOT a casino. There is not one person who lives here that told me they want a casino here. In fact, every person who discussed this topic with me is furious and disgusted that we would even consider having a casino here.

With a shortage of workers, livable wages, and fair labor practices I cannot believe that we would focus time, money, and energy on something that would not directly and immediately improve the quality of life for people in our region like a FAIR share tax plan. We have come to rely on people playing games, and risking gambling addictions that can destroy families, to fund essential needs in life, all so that the wealthiest can avoid paying their fair share in taxes. For the love of humanity and life on Earth we can do so much better than this!

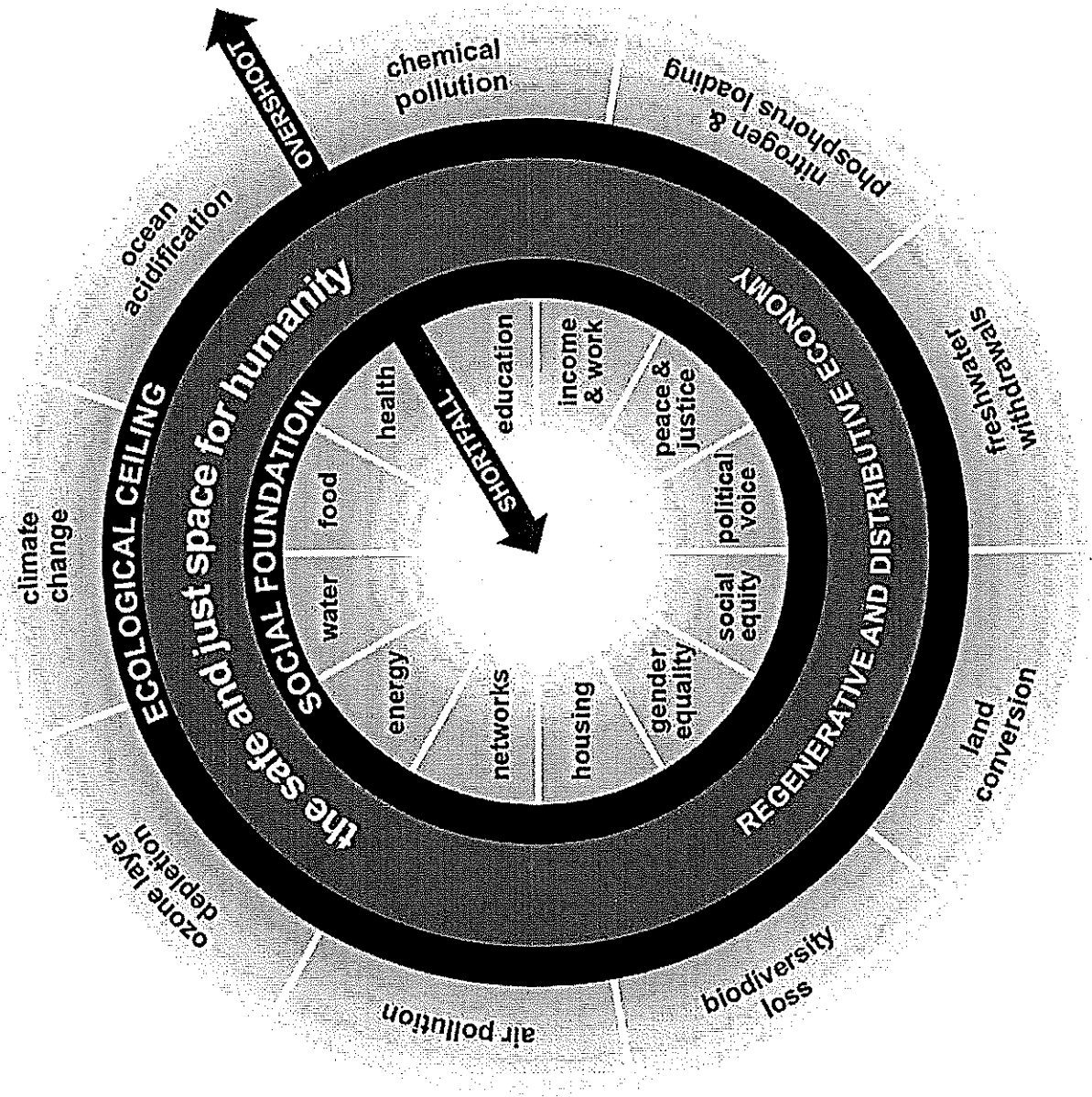
Thank you for your consideration.

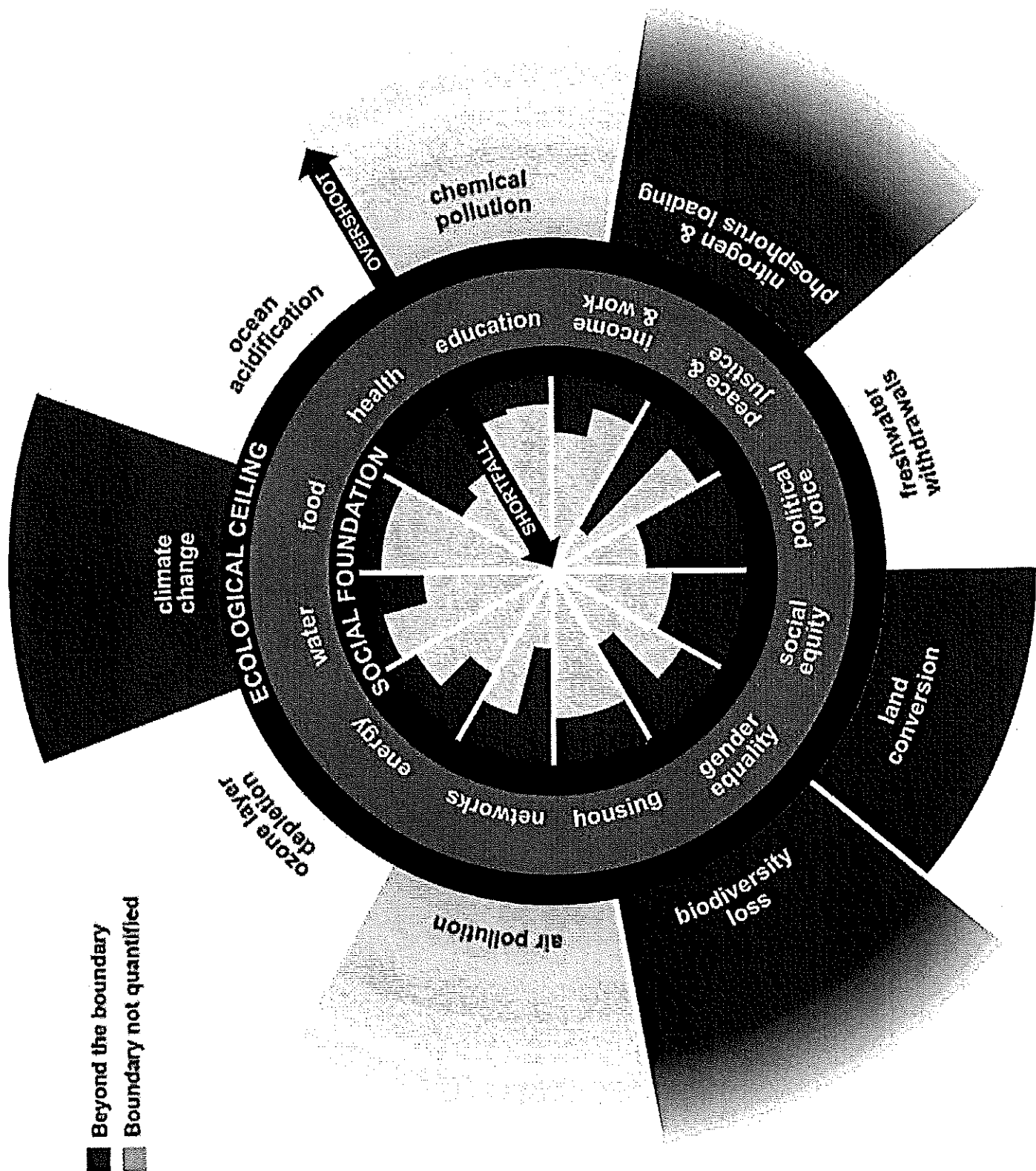
Wishing for a better future for ALL,

Valerie



Valerie Burnett
318 Toftrees Ave #139
State College, PA 16803





[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doughnut_\(economic_model\)#/media/File%3ADoughnut_\(economic_model\).jpg](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doughnut_(economic_model)#/media/File%3ADoughnut_(economic_model).jpg) (12/16/2021)

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doughnut_\(economic_model\)#/media/File%3ADoughnut-transgressing.jpg](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doughnut_(economic_model)#/media/File%3ADoughnut-transgressing.jpg) (12/16/2021)



General Assembly

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4 May 2018

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Human Rights Council

Thirty-eighth session

18 June–6 July 2018

Agenda item 3

Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development

Report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights on his mission to the United States of America

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to transmit to the Human Rights Council the report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Philip Alston, on his mission to the United States of America from 1 to 15 December 2017. The purpose of the visit was to evaluate, and report to the Human Rights Council on, the extent to which the Government's policies and programmes aimed at addressing extreme poverty are consistent with its human rights obligations and to offer constructive recommendations to the Government and other stakeholders.



Report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights on his mission to the United States of America*

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* Circulated in the language of submission and in Spanish only.

I. Introduction

1. The Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights visited the United States of America from 1 to 15 December 2017, in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 35/19. The purpose of the visit was to report to the Council on the extent to which the Government's policies and programmes relating to extreme poverty are consistent with its human rights obligations and to offer constructive recommendations to the Government and other stakeholders. The Special Rapporteur is grateful to the Government for inviting him, for facilitating his visit and for continuing its cooperation with the Council's accountability mechanisms that apply to all States.¹

2. During his visit, the Special Rapporteur met with government officials at the federal, state, county and city levels, members of Congress, representatives of civil society, academics and people living in poverty. He also received more than 40 detailed written submissions in advance of his visit.² He visited California (Los Angeles and San Francisco), Alabama (Lowndes County and Montgomery), Georgia (Atlanta), Puerto Rico (San Juan, Guayama and Salinas), West Virginia (Charleston) and Washington, D.C. He is deeply grateful to all those who organized community consultations for him in these locations, and to the US Human Rights Network, which devoted a full day of its 2017 national convening in Atlanta to his country visit.

3. The strict word limit for this report makes it impossible to delve deeply into even the key issues. Fortunately, there is already much excellent scholarship and many civil society analyses of the challenges of poverty in the United States.³ In the present report, the Special Rapporteur aims to bring together some of those analyses, identify the key poverty-related problems and explain the relevance of the international human rights obligations of the United States in this context. As with all such country visits, the consideration of the report by the Human Rights Council will enable other States to examine the extent to which the United States is living up to its international obligations.

II. Overview

4. The United States is a land of stark contrasts. It is one of the world's wealthiest societies, a global leader in many areas, and a land of unsurpassed technological and other forms of innovation. Its corporations are global trendsetters, its civil society is vibrant and sophisticated and its higher education system leads the world. But its immense wealth and expertise stand in shocking contrast with the conditions in which vast numbers of its citizens live. About 40 million live in poverty, 18.5 million in extreme poverty, and 5.3 million live in Third World conditions of absolute poverty.⁴ It has the highest youth poverty rate in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the highest infant mortality rates among comparable OECD States. Its citizens live shorter and sicker lives compared to those living in all other rich democracies, eradicable tropical diseases are increasingly prevalent, and it has the world's highest incarceration rate, one of

¹ The Special Rapporteur is grateful for the superb research and analysis undertaken by Christiaan van Veen, Anna Bulman, Ria Singh Sawhney and staff of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

² Submissions available at www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Poverty/Pages/Callforinput.aspx.

³ See, for example: Kathryn J. Edin and H. Luke Shaefer, *\$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America* (New York, Mariner Books, 2016); Matthew Desmond, *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* (New York, Crown Publishers, 2016); Sasha Abramsky, *The American Way of Poverty: How the Other Half Still Lives* (New York, Nation Books, 2013); and Peter Edelman, *Not a Crime to Be Poor: The Criminalization of Poverty in America* (The New Press, New York, 2017).

⁴ Jessica L. Semega, Kayla R. Fontenot and Melissa A. Kollar, *Income and Poverty in the United States: 2016 — Current Population Reports* (United States Census Bureau, September 2017), pp. 12 and 17. Available at www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2017/demo/P60-259.pdf. See also Angus Deaton, "The U.S. can no longer hide from its deep poverty problem", *New York Times*, 24 January 2018.

the lowest levels of voter registrations in among OECD countries and the highest obesity levels in the developed world.

5. The United States has the highest rate of income inequality among Western countries.⁵ The \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts in December 2017 overwhelmingly benefited the wealthy and worsened inequality. The consequences of neglecting poverty and promoting inequality are clear. The United States has one of the highest poverty and inequality levels among the OECD countries, and the Stanford Center on Inequality and Poverty ranks it 18th out of 21 wealthy countries in terms of labour markets, poverty rates, safety nets, wealth inequality and economic mobility. But in 2018 the United States had over 25 per cent of the world's 2,208 billionaires.⁶ There is thus a dramatic contrast between the immense wealth of the few and the squalor and deprivation in which vast numbers of Americans exist. For almost five decades the overall policy response has been neglectful at best, but the policies pursued over the past year seem deliberately designed to remove basic protections from the poorest, punish those who are not in employment and make even basic health care into a privilege to be earned rather than a right of citizenship.

6. The visit of the Special Rapporteur coincided with the dramatic change of direction in relevant United States policies. The new policies: (a) provide unprecedentedly high tax breaks and financial windfalls to the very wealthy and the largest corporations; (b) pay for these partly by reducing welfare benefits for the poor; (c) undertake a radical programme of financial, environmental, health and safety deregulation that eliminates protections mainly benefiting the middle classes and the poor; (d) seek to add over 20 million poor and middle class persons to the ranks of those without health insurance; (e) restrict eligibility for many welfare benefits while increasing the obstacles required to be overcome by those eligible; (f) dramatically increase spending on defence, while rejecting requested improvements in key veterans' benefits; (g) do not provide adequate additional funding to address an opioid crisis that is decimating parts of the country; and (h) make no effort to tackle the structural racism that keeps a large percentage of non-Whites⁷ in poverty and near poverty.

7. In a 2017 report, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) captured the situation even before the impact of these aggressively regressive redistributive policies had been felt, stating that the United States economy "is delivering better living standards for only the few", and that "household incomes are stagnating for a large share of the population, job opportunities are deteriorating, prospects for upward mobility are waning, and economic gains are increasingly accruing to those that are already wealthy".⁸

8. The share of the top 1 per cent of the population in the United States has grown steadily in recent years. In 2016 they owned 38.6 per cent of total wealth. In relation to both wealth and income the share of the bottom 90 per cent has fallen in most of the past 25 years.⁹ The tax reform will worsen this situation and ensure that the United States remains the most unequal society in the developed world. The planned dramatic cuts in welfare will essentially shred crucial dimensions of a safety net that is already full of holes. Since economic and political power reinforce one another, the political system will be even more vulnerable to capture by wealthy elites.

9. This situation bodes ill not only for the poor and middle class in America, but for society as a whole, with high poverty levels "creating disparities in the education system, hampering human capital formation and eating into future productivity".¹⁰ There are also

⁵ World Income Inequality Database, available at www.wider.unu.edu/project/wiid-world-income-inequality-database.

⁶ See www.forbes.com/sites/forbespr/2018/03/06/forbes-32nd-annual-worlds-billionaires-issue/#43e9e95a10e0.

⁷ In the present report, references to race or ethnicity include the following classifications used by the United States Census Bureau: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black and White (see www.census.gov/topics/population/race/about.html).

⁸ IMF, "United States: staff report for the 2017 Article IV Consultation", para. 14.

⁹ Jesse Bricker and others, "Changes in U.S. family finances from 2013 to 2016: evidence from the Survey of Consumer Finances", *Federal Reserve Bulletin* (September 2017), vol. 103, No. 3, p. 10.

¹⁰ IMF, "United States: staff report", para. 18.

global consequences. The tax cuts will fuel a global race to the bottom, thus further reducing the revenues needed by Governments to ensure basic social protection and meet their human rights obligations. And the United States remains a model whose policies other countries seek to emulate.

10. Defenders of the status quo point to the United States as the land of opportunity and the place where the American dream can come true because the poorest can aspire to the ranks of the richest. But today's reality is very different. The United States now has one of the lowest rates of intergenerational social mobility of any of the rich countries.¹¹ Zip codes, which are usually reliable proxies for race and wealth, are tragically reliable predictors of a child's future employment and income prospects. High child and youth poverty rates perpetuate the intergenerational transmission of poverty very effectively, and ensure that the American dream is rapidly becoming the American illusion. The equality of opportunity, which is so prized in theory, is in practice a myth, especially for minorities and women, but also for many middle-class White workers.

11. New technologies now play a central role in either exacerbating or reducing poverty levels in the United States. Some commentators are singularly optimistic in this regard and highlight the many potential benefits of new technologies, including those based on artificial intelligence, for poverty reduction efforts in fields as diverse as health care, transportation, the environment, criminal justice, and economic inclusion.¹² Others acknowledge the downsides, and especially the potential negative effects of automation and robotization on future employment levels and job security.¹³ But remarkably little attention has been given to the specific impact of these new technologies on the lives of the poor in American society today.¹⁴ Such inquiries have significance well beyond that pertaining to the poor, since experience shows that those in poverty are often a testing ground for practices and policies subsequently applied more broadly. In the present report, the Special Rapporteur seeks to stimulate deeper reflection on the impact of new technologies on the human rights of the poorest.

III. Human rights dimension

12. Successive administrations, including the current one, have determinedly rejected the idea that economic and social rights are full-fledged human rights, despite their clear recognition not only in key treaties that the United States has ratified, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, but also in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which the United States has long insisted other countries must respect. But denial does not eliminate responsibility, nor does it negate obligations. International human rights law recognizes a right to education, a right to health care, a right to social protection for those in need and a right to an adequate standard of living. In practice, the United States is alone among developed countries in insisting that, while human rights are of fundamental importance, they do not include rights that guard against dying of hunger, dying from a lack of access to affordable health care or growing up in a context of total deprivation. Since the United States has refused to accord domestic recognition to the economic and social rights agreed by most other States in the

¹¹ Raj Chetty and others, "The fading American dream: trends in absolute income mobility since 1940", National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 22910 (December 2016), p. 2. See also Jonathan Davis and Bhashkar Mazumder, "The decline in intergenerational mobility after 1980", Opportunity & Inclusive Growth Institute working paper (29 March 2017), available at www.minneapolisfed.org/institute/working-papers/17-21.pdf.

¹² Executive Office of the President, National Science and Technology Council Committee on Technology, "Preparing for the future of artificial intelligence" (October 2016), p. 1. See also Elisabeth A. Mason, "A.I. and big data could power a new war on poverty", *New York Times*, 1 January 2018.

¹³ Charles Varner, Marybeth Mattingly and David Grusky, "The facts behind the visions", *Pathways* (Spring 2017), p. 4.

¹⁴ Cathy O'Neil, "The ivory tower can't keep ignoring tech", *New York Times*, 14 November 2017.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other treaties,¹⁵ except for the recognition of some social rights, and especially the right to education, in state constitutions, the primary focus of the present report is on those civil and political rights reflected in the United States Bill of Rights and in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which the United States has ratified.

IV. Who are “the poor”?

13. In thinking about poverty, it is striking how much weight is given to caricatured narratives about the purported innate differences between rich and poor that are consistently peddled by some politicians and media. The rich are industrious, entrepreneurial, patriotic and the drivers of economic success. The poor are wasters, losers and scammers. As a result, money spent on welfare is money down the drain. If the poor really want to make it in the United States, they can easily do so: they really can achieve the American dream if only they work hard enough. The reality, however, is very different. Many of the wealthiest citizens do not pay taxes at the rates that others do, hoard much of their wealth offshore and often make their profits purely from speculation rather than contributing to the overall wealth of the American community.

14. In imagining the poor, racist stereotypes are usually not far beneath the surface. The poor are overwhelmingly assumed to be people of colour, whether African Americans or Hispanic “immigrants”. The reality is that there are 8 million more poor Whites than there are poor Blacks.¹⁶ The face of poverty in America is not only Black or Hispanic, but also White, Asian and many other backgrounds.

15. Similarly, large numbers of welfare recipients are assumed to be living high on “the dole”. Some politicians and political appointees with whom the Special Rapporteur spoke were completely sold on the narrative of such scammers sitting on comfortable sofas, watching cable television or spending their days on their smartphones, all paid for by welfare. The Special Rapporteur wonders how many of those politicians have ever visited poor areas, let alone spoken to those who dwell there. There are anecdotes aplenty, but little evidence. In every society, there are those who abuse the system, as much in the upper income levels as in the lower. But in reality, the poor are overwhelmingly those born into poverty, or those thrust there by circumstances largely beyond their control, such as physical or mental disabilities, divorce, family breakdown, illness, old age, unliveable wages or discrimination in the job market.

V. Current extent of poverty in the United States of America

16. There is considerable debate over the extent of poverty in the United States, but the present report relies principally upon official government statistics, especially from the United States Census Bureau. It defines and quantifies poverty in America based on “poverty thresholds” or official poverty measures, updated each year. These thresholds have been used since President Lyndon B. Johnson’s war on poverty in the 1960s and use a set of dollar value thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty.¹⁷ Following much criticism of the official poverty measures, the Census Bureau developed a supplemental poverty measure, which is preferred by many experts.¹⁸ According to the official poverty measures, in 2016, 12.7 per cent of Americans were living in poverty;¹⁹ according to the supplemental poverty measure, the figure was 14 per cent.²⁰

¹⁵ The United States is the only country in the world that has not ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which protects the economic and social rights of children.

¹⁶ Semega, Fontenot and Kollar, *Income and Poverty*, p. 12.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 43.

¹⁸ Written submission by the Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality, 4 October 2017, p. 2.

¹⁹ Semega, Fontenot and Kollar, *Income and Poverty*, p. 12.

²⁰ Liana Fox, “The supplemental poverty measure” (September 2017), p. 1. Available at www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2017/demo/p60-261.pdf.

VI. Problems with existing governmental policies

17. There is no magic recipe for eliminating extreme poverty, and each level of government must make its own good-faith decisions. At the end of the day, however, particularly in a rich country like the United States, the persistence of extreme poverty is a political choice made by those in power. With political will, it could readily be eliminated. What is known, from long experience and in the light of the Government's human rights obligations, is that there are indispensable ingredients for a set of policies designed to eliminate poverty. They include: democratic decision-making, full employment policies, social protection for the vulnerable, a fair and effective justice system, gender and racial equality, respect for human dignity, responsible fiscal policies and environmental justice. As shown below, the United States falls well short on each of these measures.

A. Undermining of democracy

18. The cornerstone of American society is democracy, but it is being steadily undermined, and with it the human right to political participation protected in article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The principle of one person, one vote applies in theory, but is increasingly far from the reality.

19. In a democracy, the task of government should be to facilitate political participation by ensuring that all citizens can vote and that their votes will count equally. However, in the United States there is overt disenfranchisement of more than 6 million felons and ex-felons,²¹ which predominantly affects Black citizens since they are the ones whose conduct is often specifically targeted for criminalization. In addition, nine states currently condition the restoration of the right to vote after prison on the payment of outstanding fines and fees. A typical outcome is that seen in Alabama, where a majority of all ex-felons cannot vote.²²

20. Then there is covert disenfranchisement, which includes the dramatic gerrymandering of electoral districts to privilege particular groups of voters, the imposition of artificial and unnecessary voter identification requirements, the blatant manipulation of polling station locations, the relocation of Departments of Motor Vehicles' offices to make it more difficult for certain groups to obtain identification, and the general ramping up of obstacles to voting, especially for those without resources. The net result is that people living in poverty, minorities and other disfavoured groups are being systematically deprived of their right to vote.

21. It is thus unsurprising that the United States has one of the lowest turnout rates in elections among developed countries, with only 55.7 per cent of the voting-age population casting ballots in the 2016 presidential election.²³ Registered voters represent a much smaller share of potential voters in the United States than in just about any other OECD country. Only about 64 per cent of the United States voting-age population was registered in 2016, compared with 91 per cent in Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 96 per cent in Sweden and nearly 99 per cent in Japan. Low turnouts are also explained by the perception that election outcomes will have no impact on the lives of poor people. One politician remarked to the Special Rapporteur on how few campaign appearances most politicians bother to make in overwhelmingly poor districts, which reflects the broader absence of party representation for low-income and working-class voters.²⁴

²¹ The Sentencing Project, "6 million lost voters: state-level estimates of felony disenfranchisement, 2016".

²² Marc Meredith and Michael Morse, "Discretionary disenfranchisement: the case of legal financial obligations" (January 2017). Available at www.sas.upenn.edu/~marcmere/workingpapers/DiscretionaryLFOs.pdf.

²³ Pew Research Center, "U.S. trails most developed countries in voter turnout" (15 May 2017).

²⁴ See also Karen Long Jusko, *Who Speaks for the Poor? Electoral Geography, Party Entry, and Representation* (Cambridge University Press, 2017).

22. The link between poverty and the absence of political rights is perfectly illustrated by Puerto Rico. If it were a state, it would be the poorest in the Union. But it is not a state, it is a mere “territory”. Puerto Ricans who live on the island have no representative with full voting rights in Congress and cannot vote in presidential elections, although they can vote in Presidential primaries. In a country that likes to see itself as the oldest democracy in the world and a staunch defender of political rights on the international stage, more than 3 million people who live on the island have no real power in their own capital.

23. Puerto Rico has a fiscal deficit and a political rights deficit, and the two are not easily disentangled. The Special Rapporteur met with the Executive Director of the Financial Oversight and Management Board that was imposed by Congress in 2016 on Puerto Rico as part of the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act. There is little indication that social protection concerns feature in a meaningful way in the Board’s analyses. At a time when even the IMF is insisting that social protection should be explicitly factored into prescriptions for fiscal adjustment (i.e., austerity), the Board should take account of human rights and social protection concerns as it contemplates far-reaching decisions on welfare reform, minimum wage and labour market deregulation.

24. It is not for the Special Rapporteur to suggest any resolution to the hotly contested issue of the constitutional status of Puerto Rico. Many interlocutors, however, made clear the widespread feeling that Puerto Ricans consider their territory to be colonized and that the United States Congress is happy to leave them in a limbo in which they have neither meaningful Congressional representation nor the ability to govern themselves. In the light of recent Supreme Court jurisprudence and Congress’s adoption of the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act there seems to be good reason for the Special Political and Decolonization Committee of the United Nations to conclude that the island is no longer a self-governing territory.

B. Shortcomings in basic social protection

25. It is sometimes argued that President Johnson’s war on poverty has failed miserably because, despite the “trillions of taxpayer dollars” spent on welfare programmes over the past five decades, the official poverty rate has remained largely unchanged.²⁵ The proposed solution then is to downsize the safety net by making it more “efficient”, “targeted” and “evidence-based”, while underlining the need to move “from welfare to work”.²⁶

26. These ideas underpin both Speaker Paul Ryan’s blueprint for welfare reform²⁷ and the budget proposed by President Donald Trump for the fiscal year 2019, which decries “stubbornly high” enrolment in welfare programmes, and describes millions of Americans as being “in a tragic state of dependency on a welfare system that does not reward work, and in many cases, pays people not to work”.²⁸

27. The available evidence, however, points in a very different direction. A 2014 White House report concluded that the war on poverty had been highly successful.²⁹ Based on the supplemental poverty measure, poverty rates in the United States fell from 26 per cent in 1967 to 16 per cent in 2012 — a decline of nearly 40 per cent.³⁰ The Census Bureau calculates that programmes such as Social Security, refundable tax credits (earned income tax credit), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Supplemental Security

²⁵ See, for example, Task Force on Poverty, Opportunity, and Upward Mobility, *A Better Way: Our Vision for a Confident America* (June, 2016).

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ David Morgan, “Speaker Ryan pledges to work with Trump on bold agenda”, *Reuters*, 9 November 2016.

²⁸ Office of Management and Budget, *Efficient, Effective, Accountable: An American Budget* (2018), p. 3.

²⁹ Council of Economic Advisors, *The War on Poverty 50 Years Later: A Progress Report* (2014), p. 45.

³⁰ Christopher T. Wimer and others, “Trends in poverty with an anchored supplemental poverty measure”, Colombia Population Research Center working paper (2013).

Income programme and housing subsidies collectively prevented about 44 million Americans from falling into poverty in 2016.³¹

28. The following sections address shortcomings in both the existing social protection system for the poorest Americans and in the assumptions underlying the administration's policy responses.

An illusory emphasis on employment

29. Proposals to slash the meagre welfare arrangements that currently exist are now sought to be justified primarily on the basis that the poor need to leave welfare and go to work. The assumption, especially in a thriving economy, is that there are a great many jobs out there waiting to be filled by individuals with low educational qualifications, often with disabilities of one kind or another, sometimes burdened with a criminal record (often poverty related), without meaningful access to health care, and with no training or effective assistance to obtain employment. It also assumes that the jobs they could get will make them independent of state assistance.

30. In reality, the job market for such people is extraordinarily limited, and even more so for those without basic forms of social protection and support. The case of Walmart, the largest employer in the United States, is instructive. Many of its workers cannot survive on a full-time wage in the absence of food stamps. This fits in a broader trend: the share of households that, while having earnings, also receive nutrition assistance rose from 19.6 per cent in 1989 to 31.8 per cent in 2015.³² Up to \$6 billion annually goes from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and other public assistance programmes to support workers in firms like Walmart, providing a huge indirect subsidy to the relevant corporations.³³ Walmart lobbied heavily for tax reform,³⁴ from which it will save billions, and then announced it would spend an additional \$700 million in increasing employee wages and benefits for its workers.³⁵ But the resulting rise in the debt of the United States, due in part to the tax reform,³⁶ has then been used to justify a proposed 30 per cent cut in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program funding over a decade.³⁷

31. In terms of job availability, the reality is very different from that portrayed by the welfare-to-work proponents. Despite the strong economy, there has been a long-term decline in employment rates; by 2017, only 89 per cent of males aged 25 to 54 were employed.³⁸ While "supply" factors such as growing rates of disability, increasing geographic immobility and higher incarceration rates are relevant, a 2016 White House report concluded that reductions in labour supply were far less important than reductions in labour demand in accounting for the long-run trend.³⁹ In the future, new technologies, such as self-driving cars, 3D printers and robot-staffed factories and warehouses, may lead to a continuing decline in demand for low-skilled labour. Leading poverty experts have concluded that, because of this rising joblessness, the poverty population in the United States "is becoming a more deprived and destitute class, one that's disconnected from the economy and unable to meet basic needs".⁴⁰

³¹ Fox, "The Supplemental Poverty Measure", p. 10.

³² See www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/chart-gallery/gallery/chart-detail/?chartId=82672.

³³ Clare O'Connor, "Report: Walmart workers cost taxpayers \$6.2 billion in public assistance", *Forbes*, 15 April 2014.

³⁴ Center for Responsive Politics, reporting on lobbying activity on tax issues in 2017. Available at www.opensecrets.org/lobby/issuesum.php?id=TAX&year=2017.

³⁵ Michael Corkery, "Walmart's bumpy day: from wage increase to store closings", *New York Times*, 11 January 2018.

³⁶ "Growing the deficit: the Senate passes a tax bill", *Economist*, 2 December 2017.

³⁷ Julie Hirschfeld Davis, "White House proposes \$4.4 trillion budget that adds \$7 trillion to deficits," *New York Times*, 12 February 2018.

³⁸ Varner, Mattingly and Grusky, "The facts", p. 4.

³⁹ Council of Economic Advisers, "The long-term decline in prime-age male labor force participation" (2016).

⁴⁰ Varner, Mattingly and Grusky, "The facts", p. 4.

32. Earlier experiments with welfare reform, particularly the Clinton-era replacement of Aid to Families with Dependent Children with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programme, should caution present-day proponents of “welfare to work”. The impact of the 1996 welfare reform on poor, single mothers has been especially dramatic. Many took low-wage jobs after the reform and “the increase in their earnings was often cancelled out by their loss of welfare benefits, leaving their overall income relatively unchanged”.⁴¹ The situation of single mothers who could not find work deteriorated.⁴² As a result, there was a 748 (1) per cent increase in the number of children of single-mother families experiencing annual \$2-a-day poverty between 1995 and 2012.⁴³

Use of fraud as a smokescreen

33. Calls for welfare reform take place against a constant drumbeat of allegations of widespread fraud in the system. Government officials warned the Special Rapporteur that individuals are constantly coming up with new schemes to live high on the welfare hog, and that individual states are gaming the welfare system to cheat the federal Government. The contrast with tax reform is instructive. In the tax context, immense faith is placed in the goodwill and altruism of the corporate beneficiaries, while with welfare reform the opposite assumptions apply. The reality, of course, is that there are good and bad corporate actors and there are good and bad welfare claimants. But while funding for the Internal Revenue Service to audit wealthy taxpayers has been reduced, efforts to identify welfare fraud are being greatly intensified.⁴⁴ Revelations of widespread tax avoidance by companies and high-wealth individuals draw no rebuke, only acquiescence and the maintenance of the loopholes and other arrangements designed to facilitate such arrangements. But revelations of food stamps being used for purposes other than staying alive draw howls of outrage from government officials and their media supporters.

34. Yet, despite repeated requests to officials for statistics on welfare fraud, the Special Rapporteur has received little convincing evidence. The Government collects data on “improper payments” made by federal departments and agencies, but this is a much broader concept than fraud. A 2016 Government Accountability Office report showed an error rate in 2015 of 3.66 per cent for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and 4.01 per cent for public housing and rental assistance. By contrast, the error rate for travel pay by the Department of Defense was 8 per cent.⁴⁵

35. The percentage of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefit dollars issued to ineligible households or to eligible households in excessive amounts was as low as 2.96 per cent in 2014.⁴⁶ According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the overwhelming majority of those errors result from mistakes by different parties, rather than from dishonesty or fraud by recipients.⁴⁷ Almost 60 per cent of the dollar value of overpayments by states resulted from mistakes by the government, rather than recipients.⁴⁸ In 2015, 55 per cent of 723,111 investigations found no fraud.⁴⁹

⁴¹ Robert A. Moffitt and Stephanie Garlow, “Did welfare reform increase employment and reduce poverty?” *Pathways* (Winter, 2018), p. 19.

⁴² *Ibid.*

⁴³ H. Luke Shaefer and Kathryn Edin, “Welfare reform and the families it left behind”, *Pathways* (Winter, 2018), p. 24.

⁴⁴ Arthur Delaney, “Rich fraud, poor fraud: the GOP’s double standard on tax mistakes”, *Huffington Post*, 14 December 2017.

⁴⁵ United States Government Accountability Office, report to Congressional committees on improper payments (June 2016), appendix III.

⁴⁶ See <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/snap/2014-rates.pdf>. See also Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, “SNAP: combating fraud and improving program integrity without weakening success”, 9 June 2016, p. 10. Available at www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/6-9-16fa-testimony.pdf.

⁴⁷ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, “SNAP: combating fraud”, p. 11.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁹ See <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/snap/2015-State-Activity-Report.pdf>.

36. Fraud rhetoric is commonly used against persons with disabilities, large numbers of whom allegedly receive disability allowances when they could actually be working full time. When the Special Rapporteur probed into the reasons for the very high rates of persons with disabilities in West Virginia receiving benefits, government officials explained that most recipients had attained low levels of education, worked in demanding manual labour jobs and were often exposed to risks that employers were not required to guard against.

Social protection for children

37. Appropriate cognitive and socio-emotional stimulation, adequate nutrition and health care, and stable and secure environments early in life are all essential ingredients in maximizing children's potential and achieving optimal life outcomes. Empirical evidence suggests strong correlations between early childhood poverty and adverse life outcomes, particularly those related to achievement skills and cognitive development.

38. From this perspective, the shockingly high number of children living in poverty in the United States demands urgent attention. In 2016, 18 per cent of children (13.3 million) were living in poverty, and children comprised 32.6 per cent of all people in poverty.⁵⁰ About 20 per cent of children live in relative income poverty, compared to the OECD average of 13 per cent.⁵¹ Contrary to stereotypical assumptions, 31 per cent of poor children are White, 24 per cent are Black, 36 per cent are Hispanic and 1 per cent are indigenous.⁵² This is consistent with the fact that the United States ranks 25th out of 29 industrialized nations in investing in early childhood education.⁵³

39. Poor children are also significantly affected by the country's crises regarding affordable and adequate housing. On a given night in 2017, about 21 per cent (or 114,829) of homeless individuals were children.⁵⁴ But this official figure may be a severe underestimate, since homeless children temporarily staying with friends, family or in motels are excluded from the point-in-time count.⁵⁵ According to the Department of Education, the number of homeless students identified as experiencing homelessness at some point during the 2015/16 school year was 1,304,803.⁵⁶

40. The infant mortality rate, at 5.8 deaths per 1,000 live births, is almost 50 per cent higher than the OECD average of 3.9.⁵⁷ On a positive note, the United States has increased health insurance coverage for children through the expansion of Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, bringing child health insurance rates to a historic high of 95 per cent.⁵⁸ These achievements are, however, under threat, as discussed below.

41. In addition, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program kept 3.8 million children out of poverty in 2015,⁵⁹ and in 2016, the earned income tax credit and the child tax credit lifted a further 4.7 million children out of poverty.⁶⁰ By contrast, the reach and

⁵⁰ Semega, Fontenot and Kollar, *Income and Poverty*, p. 14.

⁵¹ OECD, "How does United States compare on child well-being?" (November 2017).

⁵² Heather Koball and Yang Jiang, "Basic facts about low-income children: children under 18 years, 2016" (National Center for Children in Poverty, January 2018).

⁵³ Robert Wood Johnston Foundation, "Can early childhood interventions improve health and well-being?" (March 2016).

⁵⁴ United States, Department of Housing and Urban Development, *The 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, Part 1: Point-in-time estimates of Homelessness*, p. 8.

⁵⁵ Madeline Daniels, "Housing Department's count of homeless children and youth problematic", 19 November 2015. Available from <https://campaignforchildren.org/news/press-release/housing-department-problematic/>.

⁵⁶ National Center for Homeless Education, *Federal Data Summary: School Years 2013–14 to 2015–16*, p. iii.

⁵⁷ OECD, "How does United States compare".

⁵⁸ Joan Alker and Alisa Chester, "Children's health coverage rate now at historic high of 95 percent" (Georgetown University Health Policy Institute, October 2016).

⁵⁹ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "Policy basics: the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)" (February 2018).

⁶⁰ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "Policy basics: the child tax credit" (October 2017).

impact of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programme has been very limited. In 2016, only 23 per cent of families in poverty received cash assistance from that programme, and the figure is less than 10 per cent in a growing number of states.⁶¹

Adult dental care

42. The Affordable Care Act greatly expanded the availability of dental care to children, but not for adults. Some 49 million Americans live in federally designated “dental professional shortage areas” and Medicare (the programme for the aged and those with disabilities) does not cover routine dental care.⁶² The only access to dental care for the uninsured is through the emergency room, where excruciating pain can lead to an extraction. Even for those with coverage, access is not guaranteed, as only a minority of dentists see Medicaid patients.⁶³ Poor oral hygiene and disfiguring dental profiles lead to unemployability in many jobs, being shunned in the community and being left unable to function effectively. Yet there is no universal programme to address those issues, which fundamentally affect the human dignity and ultimately the civil rights of the persons concerned.

C. Reliance on criminalization to conceal the underlying poverty problem

Criminalization of the homeless

43. The official point-in-time estimates of homelessness in 2017 show a nationwide figure of 553,742, including 76,501 in New York, 55,188 in Los Angeles and 6,858 in San Francisco.⁶⁴ There is ample evidence that these figures significantly underestimate the actual scale of the problem.

44. In many cities, homeless persons are effectively criminalized for the situation in which they find themselves. Sleeping rough, sitting in public places, panhandling, public urination and myriad other offences have been devised to attack the “blight” of homelessness. The criminalization of homeless individuals in cities that provide almost zero public toilets seems particularly callous. In June 2017, it was reported that the approximately 1,800 homeless individuals on Skid Row in Los Angeles had access to only nine public toilets.⁶⁵ Los Angeles failed to meet even the minimum standards the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees sets for refugee camps in the Syrian Arab Republic and other emergency situations.⁶⁶

45. Ever more demanding and intrusive regulations lead to infraction notices for the homeless, which rapidly turn into misdemeanours, leading to warrants, incarceration, unpayable fines and the stigma of a criminal conviction that in turn virtually prevents subsequent employment and access to most housing. Yet the authorities in cities such as Los Angeles and San Francisco often encourage this vicious circle. On Skid Row in Los Angeles, 14,000 homeless persons were arrested in 2016 alone, an increase of 31 per cent over 2011, while overall arrests in the city decreased by 15 per cent.⁶⁷ Citizens and local authorities, rather than treating homeless persons as affronts to their sensibilities and neighbourhoods, should see in their presence a tragic indictment of community and government policies. Homelessness on this scale is far from inevitable and reflects political choices to see the solution as law enforcement rather than adequate and accessible low-cost

⁶¹ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, “TANF reaching few poor families” (December 2017).

⁶² Mary Otto, *Teeth: The Story of Beauty, Inequality, and the Struggle for Oral Health in America* (New York, The New Press, 2017), p. vii.

⁶³ *Ibid.*, pp. 37, 120 and 171.

⁶⁴ United States, Department of Housing and Urban Development, *The 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report*.

⁶⁵ Alastair Gee, “At night on Skid Row, nearly 2,000 homeless people share just nine toilets”, *The Guardian*, 30 June 2017.

⁶⁶ See <https://emergency.unhcr.org/entry/33015/emergency-sanitation-standard>.

⁶⁷ Gale Holland and Christine Zhang, “Huge increase in arrests of homeless in L.A. — but mostly for minor offenses”, *Los Angeles Times*, 4 February 2018.

housing, medical treatment, psychological counselling and job training.⁶⁸ The Right to Rest Act introduced in California, Colorado and Oregon is an example of the type of legislative approach needed to shift from the criminal justice response to a human rights-centred response to homelessness.

46. As the Special Rapporteur explained in more detail in his 15 December 2017 statement,⁶⁹ coordinated entry systems to match housing supply for the homeless to demand have been introduced in Los Angeles, San Francisco and elsewhere. These are premised partly on the idea that homelessness is a data problem and that new information technologies are key to solving it.⁷⁰ But despite the good intentions behind them, including the reduction of duplication and fragmentation in service delivery, coordinated entry systems simply replicate many problems associated with existing policy responses. They contribute to the process of criminalization by requiring the homeless to take part in an intrusive survey that makes many feel they “are giving up their human right to privacy in return for their human right to housing”.⁷¹ Many participants fear that police forces have access to data collected from the homeless; it could be concluded from conversations between the Special Rapporteur and officials and experts that this fear may well be justified. The introduction of coordinated entry systems has also been criticized for being costly and diverting resources and attention away from the key problem, which is the lack of available housing for those in need.⁷² New information technology-based solutions, such as coordinated entry systems, might bring improved reliability and objectivity, but the vulnerability scores they produce have been challenged for their randomness.⁷³

Treatment of the poor in the criminal justice system

47. In many cities and counties, the criminal justice system is effectively a system for keeping the poor in poverty while generating revenue to fund not only the justice system but many other programmes. The use of the legal system to raise revenue, not to promote justice, as was documented so powerfully in a 2015 report on Ferguson, Missouri by the Department of Justice,⁷⁴ is pervasive around the country.

48. So-called fines and fees are piled up so that low level infractions become immensely burdensome, a process that affects only the poorest members of society, who pay the vast majority of such penalties. Driving licences are also commonly suspended for a wide range of non-driving related offences, such as a failure to pay fines.⁷⁵ This is a perfect way to ensure that the poor, living in communities that have steadfastly refused to invest in serious public transport systems, are unable to earn a living that might have helped to pay the outstanding debt. Two paths are open: penury, or driving illegally, thus risking even more serious and counterproductive criminalization.

49. Another practice that affects the poor almost exclusively is that of setting large bail bonds for a defendant who seeks to go free pending trial. Some 11 million people are admitted to local jails annually, and on any given day more than 730,000 people are being held, of whom almost two thirds are awaiting trial, and thus presumed to be innocent. Yet judges have increasingly set large bail amounts, which means that wealthy defendants can

⁶⁸ See, for example, Gary Blasi and Phillip Mangano, “Stop punishing and start helping L.A.’s homeless”, *Los Angeles Times*, 30 June 2015.

⁶⁹ See paras. 54–61. Available at www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22533&LangID=E.

⁷⁰ See, for example, City of Los Angeles, *Comprehensive Homeless Strategy* (2016), p. 49.

⁷¹ Statement made during a civil society consultation, San Francisco, 6 December 2017.

⁷² A recent publication estimated that in Los Angeles alone the coordinated entry system had cost about \$11 million since its introduction, including only the cost of technical resources, software and extra personnel, not the cost of providing actual housing or services. (Virginia Eubanks, *Automating Inequality* (New York, St. Martin’s Press, 2018), p. 113.

⁷³ *Ibid.*, chap. 3.

⁷⁴ See www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/opa/press-releases/attachments/2015/03/04/ferguson_police_department_report.pdf.

⁷⁵ See, for example, Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area and others, “Not just a Ferguson problem: how traffic courts drive inequality in California” (2015).

secure their freedom while poor defendants are likely to stay in jail, with severe consequences such as loss of jobs, disruption of childcare, inability to pay rent and deeper destitution.

50. A major movement to eliminate bail bonds is gathering steam across the United States, and needs to be embraced by anyone concerned about the utterly disproportionate negative impact of the justice system upon the poor. The purpose of the reform is to link pretrial detention to risk rather than wealth. A growing number of jurisdictions are adopting risk assessment tools to assist in pretrial release and custody decisions. This is a positive development, but the widespread use of risk assessment tools also raises human rights concerns.

51. The fear is that highly political questions about the level of risk that society considers acceptable are hidden behind the veneer of technical design choices, that obscure algorithms disproportionately identify poor defendants as “high risk” by replicating the biased assumptions of previous human decision makers,⁷⁶ and that private contractors who develop risk assessment tools will refuse to divulge their content on the grounds that the information is proprietary, which leads to serious due process concerns affecting the civil rights of the poor in the criminal justice system.⁷⁷

52. Solutions to major social challenges in the United States are increasingly seen to lie with privatization, especially in the criminal justice system. Bail bond corporations, which exist in only one other country in the world, precisely because they distort justice, encourage excessive and often unnecessary levels of bail, and lobby for the maintenance of a system that by definition penalizes the middle class and the poor.⁷⁸

53. In some states, minor offences are routinely punished by placing the offender on probation, overseen by a for-profit corporation, entirely at the expense of the usually poor offender. Those who cannot pay are subject to additional fees, supervision and testing.⁷⁹ Similarly, in 26 states judges issue arrest warrants for alleged debtors at the request of private debt collectors, thus violating the law and human rights standards. The practice affects primarily the poor by subjecting them to court appearances, arrest warrants that appear on background checks, and jail time, which interfere with their wages, their jobs, their ability to find housing and more.⁸⁰

D. Persistent discrimination and poverty

Race

54. The United States remains a chronically segregated society. Blacks are 2.5 times more likely than Whites to be living in poverty, their infant mortality rate is 2.3 times that of Whites, their unemployment rate is more than double that for Whites, they typically earn only 82.5 cents for every dollar earned by a White counterpart, their household earnings are on average well under two thirds of those of their White equivalents, and their incarceration rates are 6.4 times higher than those of Whites.⁸¹ These shameful statistics can only be

⁷⁶ Written submission to the Special Rapporteur from Edward W. Felten and Bendert Zevenbergen, Princeton University.

⁷⁷ AI Now, “AI Now 2017 report”.

⁷⁸ See, for example, www.hrw.org/report/2018/02/20/set-fail/impact-offender-funded-private-probation-poor.

⁷⁹ Human Rights Watch, “Set up to Fail”: *The Impact of Offender-Funded Private Probation on the Poor* (2018).

⁸⁰ American Civil Liberties Union, “First-ever national report on widespread court practices that coerce payments from people in debt without due process”, February 2018. See also American Civil Liberties Union, *A Pound of Flesh: The Criminalization of Private Debt* (2018).

⁸¹ Economic Policy Institute, “50 years after the Kerner Commission” (26 February 2018). See also Fred Harris and Alan Curtis (eds.), *Healing Our Divided Society* (Temple University Press, 2018).

explained by long-standing structural discrimination on the basis of race, reflecting the enduring legacy of slavery.⁸²

55. Ironically, politicians and mainstream media portrayals distort this situation in order to suggest that poverty in America is overwhelmingly Black, thereby triggering a range of racist responses and encouraging Whites to see poverty as a question of race. Too often the loaded and inaccurate message that parts of the media want to convey is “lazy Blacks sponge off hard-working Whites”.

Gender

56. Women often experience the burdens of poverty in particularly harsh ways. Poor pregnant women who seek Medicaid prenatal care are subjected to interrogations of a highly sensitive and personal nature, effectively surrendering their privacy rights.⁸³ Low-income women who would like to exercise their constitutional, privacy-derived right to access abortion services face legal and practical obstacles, such as mandatory waiting periods and long driving distances to clinics. This lack of access to abortion services traps many women in cycles of poverty.⁸⁴ When a child is born to a woman living in poverty, that woman is more likely to be investigated by the child welfare system and have her child taken away from her.⁸⁵ Poverty is frequently treated as a form of “child neglect” and thus as cause to remove a child from the home,⁸⁶ a risk exacerbated by the fact that some states do not provide legal aid in child welfare proceedings.⁸⁷

57. Racial discrimination makes matters even worse for many poor women. Black women with cervical cancer — a disease that can easily be prevented or cured — have lower survival rates than White women, due to later diagnosis and treatment differences,⁸⁸ owing to a lack of health insurance and regular access to health care. The United States has the highest maternal mortality ratio among wealthy countries, and black women are three to four times more likely to die than White women. In one city, the rate for Blacks was 12 times higher than that for Whites.⁸⁹

58. In rural areas, women face significantly higher poverty rates, as well as related child poverty.⁹⁰ In economically depressed areas of the Midwest, rural Appalachia and the deep south unemployment is high and essential services, such as childcare, health care and grocery stores, are unavailable or difficult to access.⁹¹ A lack of adequate public transport means that families are unable to access decent supermarkets and instead rely predominantly on expensive and poorly stocked local stores. In general, poor women and

⁸² Center for American Progress, “Systematic inequality: how America’s structural racism helped create the black-white wealth gap” (2018). See also Tommie Shelby, *Dark Ghettos: Injustice, Dissent and Reform* (Belknap Press, 2016).

⁸³ Khiara M. Bridges, *The Poverty of Privacy Rights* (Stanford University Press, 2017).

⁸⁴ Diana Greene Foster and others, “Socioeconomic outcomes of women who receive and women who are denied wanted abortions in the United States”, *American Journal of Public Health*, vol. 108, No. 3 (March 2018), p. 407.

⁸⁵ Written submissions to the Special Rapporteur from National Advocates for Pregnant Women and the Center for Reproductive Rights.

⁸⁶ Maren K. Dale, “Addressing the underlying issue of poverty in child-neglect cases” (10 April 2014). Available at www.americanbar.org/aba.html.

⁸⁷ Written submission to the Special Rapporteur from National Advocates for Pregnant Women.

⁸⁸ Wonsuk Yoo and others, “Recent trends in racial and regional disparities in cervical cancer incidence and mortality in United States”, *PLOS ONE*, vol. 12, No. 2 (February 2017).

⁸⁹ New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, *Pregnancy-Associated Mortality: New York City, 2006–2010*. Available from www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/ms/pregnancy-associated-mortality-report.pdf.

⁹⁰ See, for example, Southern Rural Black Women’s Initiative for Economic and Social Justice, *Unequal Lives: The State of Black Women and Families in the Rural South*, p. 6.

⁹¹ Lisa R. Pruitt and Janet L. Wallace, “Judging parents, judging place: poverty, rurality and termination of parental rights”, *Missouri Law Review*, vol. 77 (2011), p. 117.

their children are more likely to be obese and suffer serious health issues and non-communicable diseases that hinder them for the rest of their lives.⁹²

59. Female immigrants, who often suffer racial discrimination from employers and find it more difficult to get jobs, experience higher poverty rates and have much less access to social protection benefits than other women.⁹³ Undocumented women live a kind of half-life, in which they experience exploitation, abuse and wage theft, and are refused access to utilities such as water, but are unable to seek assistance or protection for fear of deportation.⁹⁴ While their undocumented status raises difficult legal and policy questions, their shadow existence as mothers of United States citizens and as domestic, sex or other workers undermines their ability to live a life in dignity. Even many permanent residents who have lived in the United States for less than five years are excluded from coverage under the Affordable Care Act⁹⁵ and assistance such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programme and housing benefits.⁹⁶

60. Lack of Internet connectivity in rural impoverished communities negatively affects access to social protection benefits, other government services and even employment.⁹⁷ In West Virginia, where an estimated 30 per cent of the population lack access to high speed broadband (compared to 10 per cent nationally) and 48 per cent of rural West Virginians lack such access (compared to 39 per cent of the rural population nationally),⁹⁸ the government has no serious plans to improve access.

Indigenous peoples

61. The Special Rapporteur heard testimonies from Chiefs and representatives of federally recognized and non-recognized tribes on widespread extreme poverty in their communities. Indigenous peoples, as a group, suffer disproportionately from multidimensional poverty and social exclusion. The 2016 poverty rate among American Indian and Alaska Native peoples was 26.2 per cent, the highest among all ethnic groups.⁹⁹ Indigenous peoples also have the highest unemployment rate of any ethnic group: 12 per cent in 2016, compared to the national average of 5.8 per cent.¹⁰⁰ One in four indigenous young people aged 16 to 24 are neither enrolled in school nor working.¹⁰¹

62. Disparities between indigenous and non-indigenous health status have long been recognized but not effectively addressed. American Indians and Alaska Natives face almost a 50 per cent higher death rate than do non-Hispanic White people, due to illnesses such as heart disease, cancer, chronic liver disease and diabetes.¹⁰² Poverty, unemployment, social

⁹² See, for example, Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative for Economic and Social Justice, *Unequal Lives*.

⁹³ See www.migrationpolicy.org/article/immigrant-women-united-states#Poverty.

⁹⁴ Written submission to the Special Rapporteur from the Miami Workers Center and others on the feminization of poverty in Miami; Azadeh Shahshahani and Kathryn Madison, "No papers? You can't have water: a critique of localities' denial of utilities to undocumented immigrants", *Emory International Law Review*, vol. 31, No. 4 (2017).

⁹⁵ Samantha Artiga and Anthony Damico, Health Coverage and Care for Immigrants, issue brief (The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, 2017).

⁹⁶ See, for example, the submission from the Miami Workers Center and others, and Shahshahani and Madison, "No papers?".

⁹⁷ See, for example, the written submission to the Special Rapporteur from Access Now. Broadband access is also seriously lacking in the South (Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative for Economic and Social Justice, *Unequal Lives*, p. 16).

⁹⁸ West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy and American Friends Service Committee, *2016 State of Working West Virginia: Why is West Virginia so Poor?*, p. 55.

⁹⁹ United States Census Bureau, "American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage — Month: November 2017". Available at www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/newsroom/facts-for-features/2017/cb17-ft20.pdf.

¹⁰⁰ The Aspen Institute, *2017 State of Native Youth Report: Our Identities as Civic Power*, p. 33.

¹⁰¹ *Ibid.*, p. 37.

¹⁰² David Espey and others, "Leading causes of death and all-cause mortality in American Indians and Alaska Natives", *American Journal of Public Health* (June 2014), vol. 104, No. S3.

exclusion and loss of cultural identity also have significant mental health ramifications and often lead to a higher prevalence of substance abuse, domestic violence and alarmingly high suicide rates in indigenous communities, particularly among young people. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among American Indians and Alaska Natives aged between 10 and 34.¹⁰³

63. In entering a “trust relationship” with the recognized tribes, the Government assumed duties to provide for economic and social programmes to ensure the welfare of the relevant indigenous groups.¹⁰⁴ But their very high poverty rates attest to the Government’s failure in this respect. Chronic underfunding of the relevant federal government departments is a significant part of the problem.¹⁰⁵ The situation has also been compounded by paternalistic attitudes,¹⁰⁶ which run directly counter to the approach reflected in international human rights law and standards, particularly the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which the Government endorsed in 2010.

64. The situation of non-federally recognized tribes is even more desperate, for they are not eligible to benefit from federally funded programmes. While 567 tribes are federally recognized, some 400 are not.¹⁰⁷ The latter exist in a context in which their way of life is not legally sanctioned, they are disempowered and their culture is threatened. Failure to collect disaggregated data for those tribes also hinders the development of evidence-based policies to address their situation.

E. Confused and counterproductive drug policies

65. The opioid crisis has devastated many communities, and the addiction to pain-control opioids often leads to heroin, methamphetamine and other substance abuse. Instead of responding with increased funding and improved access to vital care and support, the federal Government and many state governments have instead mounted concerted campaigns to reduce and restrict access to health care by the poorer members of the population.¹⁰⁸

66. In terms of welfare, the main responses have been punitive. States increasingly seek to impose drug tests on recipients of welfare benefits, with programmes that lead to expulsion from the programme for repeat offenders. Others have introduced severe punishments for pregnant women who abuse drugs. Medical professionals recognize that such policies are counterproductive, highly intrusive and misplaced. The urge to punish rather than assist the poor often also has racial undertones, as in the contrast between the huge sentences handed down to those using drugs such as crack cocaine (predominantly Black) and those using opioids (overwhelmingly White).

F. Environmental pollution

67. Poor rural communities throughout the United States are often located close to polluting industries that pose an imminent and persistent threat to their human right to

¹⁰³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Leading Causes of Death Reports, 1981–2016.

¹⁰⁴ See www.acf.hhs.gov/ana/resource/american-indians-and-alaska-natives-the-trust-responsibility.

¹⁰⁵ See, for example, United States Government Accountability Office, *Progress on Many High-Risk Areas, While Substantial Efforts Needed on Others*, report to congressional committees (February 2017). Available at <https://www.gao.gov/assets/690/682765.pdf>.

¹⁰⁶ See A/HRC/21/47/Add.1, para. 15.

¹⁰⁷ United States Government Accountability Office, *Federal Funding for Non-Federally Recognized Tribes* (April 2012). Available at www.gao.gov/assets/600/590102.pdf.

¹⁰⁸ See, for example, Debra E. Houry, Tamara M. Haegerich and Alana Vivolo-Kantor, “Opportunities for prevention and intervention of opioid overdose in the emergency department”, *Annals of Emergency Medicine* (2018).

health.¹⁰⁹ At the same time, poor communities benefit very little from these industries, which they effectively subsidize because of the low tax rates offered by local governments to the relevant corporations.

68. Poor communities suffer especially from the effects of exposure to coal ash, which is the toxic remains of coal burned in power plants. It contains chemicals that cause cancer, developmental disorders and reproductive problems,¹¹⁰ and is reportedly dumped in about 1,400 sites around the United States — 70 per cent of which are situated in low-income communities.¹¹¹ In Puerto Rico, the Special Rapporteur visited Guayama, where poor communities live close to a plant owned by Applied Energy Systems (AES) that produces coal ash. Community members noted severe negative impacts on their health and economic activities; neither federal nor local authorities had taken action. In March 2018 the Environmental Protection Agency proposed a new rule that would significantly undermine existing inadequate protections against coal ash disposal.

69. In Alabama and West Virginia, a high proportion of the population is not served by public sewerage and water supply services. Contrary to the assumption in most developed countries that such services should be extended by the government systematically and eventually comprehensively to all areas, neither state was able to provide figures as to the magnitude of the challenge or details of any planned government response.

VII. Conclusions and recommendations

70. The following analysis focuses primarily on the federal level. It is nonetheless ironic that those who fight hardest to uphold state rights also fight hard to deny city and county rights. If the rhetoric about encouraging laboratories of innovation is to be meaningful, the freedom to innovate cannot be restricted to state politicians alone.

1. Decriminalize being poor

71. Punishing and imprisoning the poor is the distinctively American response to poverty in the twenty-first century. Workers who cannot pay their debts, those who cannot afford private probation services, minorities targeted for traffic infractions, the homeless, the mentally ill, fathers who cannot pay child support and many others are all locked up. Mass incarceration is used to make social problems temporarily invisible and to create the mirage of something having been done.

72. It is difficult to imagine a more self-defeating strategy. Federal, state, county and city governments incur vast costs in running jails and prisons. Sometimes these costs are “recovered” from the prisoners, thus fuelling the latter’s cycle of poverty and desperation. The criminal records attached to the poor through imprisonment make it even harder for them to find jobs, housing, stability and self-sufficiency. Families are destroyed, children are left parentless and the burden on governments mounts. But because little is done to address the underlying causes of the original problem, it continues to fester. Even when imprisonment is not the preferred option, the standard response to those facing economic hardship is to adopt policies explicitly designed to make access to health care, sick leave and welfare and child benefits more difficult to access and the receipt of benefits more stigmatizing.

73. A cheaper and more humane option is to provide proper social protection and facilitate the return to the workforce of those who are able. In the United States, it is poverty that needs to be arrested, not the poor simply for being poor.

¹⁰⁹ Bill Chameides, “A look at environmental justice in the United States today,” Huffington Post Blog, 20 January 2014. Available at www.huffingtonpost.com/bill-chameides/a-look-at-environmental-j_b_4633223.html.

¹¹⁰ Earthjustice, “Fighting for protections from coal ash”. Available at https://earthjustice.org/our_work/cases/2012/legal-fight-for-long-overdue-coal-ash-protections.

¹¹¹ Oliver Milman, “A civil rights ‘emergency’: justice, clean air and water in the age of Trump”, *The Guardian*, 20 November 2017.

2. Acknowledge the plight of the middle class

74. Only 36 per cent of Republican voters consider that the federal Government should do more to help poor people, and 33 per cent believe that it already does too much.¹¹² The paradox is that the proposed slashing of social protection benefits will affect the middle classes every bit as much as the poor. Almost a quarter of full-time workers, and three quarters of part-time workers, receive no paid sick leave. Absence from work due to illness thus poses a risk of economic disaster. About 44 per cent of adults either could not cover an emergency expense costing \$400 or would need to sell something or borrow money to do it. Over a quarter of all adults are classified as having no access or inadequate access to banking facilities.¹¹³ The impacts of automation, artificial intelligence and the increasing fluidity of work arrangements mean that employer-provided social protection will likely disappear for the middle classes in the years ahead. If this coincides with dramatic cutbacks in government benefits, the middle classes will suffer an ever more precarious economic existence, with major negative implications for the economy as a whole, for levels of popular discontent and for political stability.

3. Acknowledge the damaging consequences of extreme inequality

75. The United States already leads the developed world in income and wealth inequality, and it is now moving full steam ahead to make itself even more unequal. But this is a race that no one else would want to win, since almost all other nations, and all the major international institutions, such as OECD, the World Bank and IMF, have recognized that extreme inequalities are economically inefficient and socially damaging. The trajectory of the United States since 1980 is shocking. In both Europe and the United States, the richest 1 per cent earned around 10 per cent of national income in 1980. By 2017 that had risen slightly in Europe to 12 per cent, but massively in the United States, to 20 per cent. Since 1980 annual income earnings for the top 1 per cent in the United States have risen 205 per cent, while for the top 0.001 per cent the figure is 636 per cent. By comparison, the average annual wage of the bottom 50 per cent has stagnated since 1980.¹¹⁴

76. The problem is that “inequality” lacks salience with the general public, who have long been encouraged to admire the conspicuous, and often obscene, consumption of billionaires and celebrities. What extreme inequality actually signifies is the transfer of economic and political power to a handful of elites who inevitably use it to further their own self-interest, as demonstrated by the situation in various countries around the world. While the poor suffer, so too do the middle class, and so does the economy as a whole. High inequality undermines sustained economic growth. It manifests itself in poor education levels, inadequate health care and the absence of social protection for the middle class and the poor, which in turn limits their economic opportunities and inhibits overall growth.

77. Extreme inequality often leads to the capture of the powers of the State by a small group of economic elites. The combined wealth of the United States Cabinet is around \$4.3 billion. As noted by Forbes: “America’s first billionaire president has remained devoted to the goal of placing his wealthy friends in his Cabinet, a top campaign promise.”¹¹⁵ And many regulatory agencies are now staffed by “political appointees with deep industry ties and potential conflicts”.¹¹⁶ Extreme inequality thus

¹¹² Pew Research Center, “Majorities say Government does too little for older people, the poor and the middle class” (2018). Available at <http://assets.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2018/01/30104502/01-30-18-groups-release.pdf>.

¹¹³ Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, *Report on the Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households in 2016* (May 2017).

¹¹⁴ Facundo Alvaredo and others, coordinators, *World Inequality Report 2018*, (World Inequality Lab).

¹¹⁵ Chase Peterson-Withorn, “The \$4.3 billion Cabinet: see what each top Trump advisor is worth,” *Forbes*, 5 July 2017.

¹¹⁶ D. Ivory and R. Faturechi, “The deep industry ties of Trump’s deregulation teams”, *New York Times*, 11 July 2017.

poses a threat not just to economic efficiency but to the well-being of American democracy.

4. Recognize a right to health care

78. Health care is, in fact, a human right. The civil and political rights of the middle class and the poor are fundamentally undermined if they are unable to function effectively, which includes working, because of a lack of the access to health care that every human being needs. The Affordable Care Act was a good start, although it was limited and flawed from the outset. Undermining it by stealth is not just inhumane and a violation of human rights, but an economically and socially destructive policy aimed at the poor and the middle class.

5. Get real about taxes

79. At the state level, the demonizing of taxation means that legislatures effectively refuse to levy taxes even when there is a desperate need. Instead they impose fees and fines through the back door, some of which fund the justice system and others of which go to fund the pet projects of legislators. This sleight-of-hand technique is a winner, in the sense that the politically powerful rich get to pay low taxes, while the politically marginalized poor bear the burden but can do nothing about it. There is a real need for the realization to sink in among the majority of the American population that taxes are not only in their interest, but also perfectly reconcilable with a growth agenda. A much-cited IMF paper concluded that redistribution could be good for growth, stating: "The combined direct and indirect effects of redistribution — including the growth effects of the resulting lower inequality — are on average pro-growth."¹¹⁷

¹¹⁷ Jonathan Ostry, Andrew Berg and Charalambos G. Tsangarides, *Redistribution, Inequality, and Growth*, IMF Staff Discussion Note (IMF, 2014), p. 4.

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Marissa Lanza <mlanza21@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 2:29 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] State College Casino

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I personally think a mini casino in Happy Valley would bring great revenue to the town. This isn't a major production like Rivers Casino in Pittsburgh. Mini casinos have thrived in the past, such as LIVE! Casino in Greensburg, PA. I see no issue with starting this construction. The Nittany Mall is suffering as well, and this could bring more of a population back to that side of town. With the closest casino being in either Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, or Rocky Gap, this could be a major hot spot for locals and traveling partners in the area. Bring the revenue back to State College, and bring more popularity back to the further part of town that has been suffering for some time.

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Marie Hamilton <gmfhamilton@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 3:08 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Caisno

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

Gentlemen. Please do not put a Casino in my community. I have two sons and grandchildren here. Surely we can be more creative than a Casino to be placed in our Mall. Give us a swimming pool and a youth center. Give us a Restorative Justice center. A casino will make a few people rich and many people harmed. Marie Hamilton 814 238-88735.

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: JOAN MCMULLEN <joan_mcmullen@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 4:10 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Mini-casino at Nittany Mall, Centre County

ATTENTION: *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

To: Board Clerk

This is to inform you that my husband and I are in favor of a mini-casino being constructed at the Nittany Mall in Centre County. We would no longer have to travel to New York State and other parts of PA to visit a casino. We don't spend anywhere near what people spend to attend a PSU game.

Also, do these residents who are against the casino have their "heads in the sand" thinking there is no gambling of any kind in the area, drugs, thefts, etc.

I don't believe these crimes will increase due to a mini-casino.

Joan McMullen

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Jackie O'Hara <jaclyn.ohara@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 7:47 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Casino support

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

Hello there!

I just wanted to voice my support for the proposed casino to be built in the Nittany Mall. The mall has been declining for years and is on the cusp of being defunct. I believe that adding a casino will be a huge boon to the area. It will help to create job opportunities for locals. It will probably bring in restaurants and other shopping venues to the area as well. I am in full support of this idea!

Thank you for taking the time to read my email, Jackie O'Hara State College Borough Resident

Sent from my iPhone

1340 E. Park Hills Ave. May, 26, 2022
State College, PA 1 6803
Dear Sir

As a resident of Centre County since 1965 I am strongly opposed to a casino being allowed to come to our community.

I think the harm it will cause outweighs perceived financial revenues the government anticipates.

Those revenues will be in part offset by the private losses of a portion of families who will be drawn into this recreational habit because of the convenience of proximity.

It places this attraction within easy reach of Penn State students who have less maturity to cope with it.

Gambling appeals in part to those of limited income. Should they become addicted they can least afford it.

Bringing into our region this type of culture denigrates our way of life.

There have been many letters to the local paper denouncing it.

For those who succumb eventually to
addictive behavior there is a
significant impact on the rest of
the family. I have personally
experienced this and know the pain chronic
anxiety this can cause.

It will also draw more criminal
elements into our area.

I urge responsible decision making
consider the weight of negative impact
this will cause to our vulnerable
society.

Respectfully,

Barbara Fisher

(Mrs. Barbara Fisher)

May 26, 2022

Sir:

The purpose of this note is to register our complete and total dislike for the proposed Centre County Casino at the Nittany Mall. This proposed use of the empty building is not consistent with goals of our rural PA, nor of Penn State University students goals. Please do not allow a Casino to open in Centre County

Sincerely,

Kathryn A Detwiler Wayne L. Detwiler, Sr.

F-26-2022

To whom it may concern

I am in favor of a casino in Centre County, my friends & I have traveled to Salamanca New York for trips just for fun, we enjoy them at least three or more times a year, if here we would not have to give ~~up~~ our money to other counties & state

My family likes to take me sometimes more

Anyway I am in favor of it, The older people love casinos!

Thank you



Ms. Doris Spackman
712 Hemlock St
Boalsburg, PA 16827

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Miles Guralnick <mguus@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 6:44 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Proposed Centre County Casino

***ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

Dear Sir/Madam:

I feel strongly opposed to permitting the proposed mini casino in the Nittany Mall in Centre County.

Mini casinos do not offer the big star entertainment, restaurants, hotels, glitz, etc. that large casinos offer, and therefore do not pull a large number of outsiders into the community to spend their \$.

Instead, they become a depository for local gamblers to drop their hard earned \$, often resulting in stress on their personal, emotional, mental, financial, and family situations.

They also attract unsavory legal and illegal businesses . . . pawn shops, payday loans, petty theft, prostitution, drugs, etc. I spent many years working at a plant in northern Idaho and could see the demise of a region resulting from the introduction of a mini-casino.

The Centre region provides a unique and enjoyable locale to live, to raise a family, and to work; as well as a destination for many alumni, sports enthusiasts, and others who are attracted to the many special activities that this extraordinary region provides.

Please do not permit this mini-casino which will become an insidious infection, and which will gradually destroy the health and excellence of our sacred Centre region; and create significant emotional and financial strain on those individuals and families who succumb to its destructive temptation.

Thank you,

Miles Guralnick

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Corey Gracie-Griffin <coreygriffin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 9:51 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Opposition to Nittany Mall Casino

ATTENTION: *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board granting a casino license for the Nittany Mall property.

There is no need for a casino in State College - a college town with a strong local economy and more job opportunities than available workers. As you are aware, gambling addiction is a serious problem and there is no good reason to make gambling more accessible to college students. While it is unfortunate that the Nittany Mall is largely vacant, this is true of malls across the country and not the problem of the people of State College nor the PGCB.

Sincerely,
Corey Gracie-Griffin
Ferguson Township

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Jeff Nelson <jeffn@tyroneford.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 10:06 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] proposed casino state college

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to whom it may concern-im a resident of blair county-and im chiming in on proposed casino in state college.im all for it!! i see it as the only way the nittany mall will survive.things are bad there now and something like this casino is the solution!! and the revenue this generates in my opinion totally outweighs the negatives!! another reason for people to go there!! and a good one i think!!

thank you
jeff nelson
tyrone pa

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Bob Howard <rgh8685@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 3:21 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Nittany mall casino

ATTENTION: *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

I live a mile from the nittany mall. I have no problem with this venture.
Some people are worried about their property value down. Having a major attraction come in to bring some life to a deteriorating eyesore of a mall building with a large crumbling parking lot and weeds all over the exterior of the building, is a major improvement.

--

Bob Howard

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Lance Lehman <lancelehman13@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 9:16 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Centre County casino--Disapproval

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

I would like to express my disapproval of a casino being built in Centre County.
I am a 40 plus year resident of the area and a a casino will bring unattractive cause to many living in our beautiful surroundings as mentioned by so many before. Please keep this casino and any other proposals out of the State College area
Lance Lehman
1002 Metz Ave
State College, Pa 16801

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Liz Hattin <lizhattin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 12:03 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] mini casino at Nittany Mall State College, Pa.

***ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

My vote for the casino is NO. I do not support gaming in our community. It is very much a family area plus 45,000 college students for part of the year. We have many elderly, like myself, and I see them taking busses to spend their SS money on gambling. Having a casino right here would just make it too available.

Thank you,
Joyce E Hattin
(lizhattin@gmail.com)

--

Liz Hattin -
Lizhattin@gmail.com

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Jody Maurer <jodyemaurer@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 6:25 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] No Casino

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

To whom it may concern,

I am a concerned citizen who would like to express my opinion that there be no casino in Centre Country.

Thank you,
Jody M.

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Eric Allen <eric@boalsburgcarco.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 9:57 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Centre county Casino

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

Good evening,

Thank you for hearing out the wishes of the local residents in this matter. Though mall based retailing is nearly dead, adding a casino will only perpetuate the net loss of the community. Please do not grant a license for a casino in Centre County. Thanks so much!

Best Regards,
Eric

Eric Allen
www.BoalsburgCarCo.com
814-466-7700
570-220-2276

334 Boal Ave
Boalsburg PA 16827

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Jackie Oshinskie <jackieo@victorynation.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 10:00 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] NO Casino in State College, PA

***ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

To Whom it May Concern,

My husband and I have been building a business in College Township for over 18 years. I am extremely concerned about the negative impact a casino will have in our community. As a result, it will attract many bad elements such as drug dealing, prostitution and child sex trafficking. This is not what we want in our community.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important matter.

--

Jackie Oshinskie
Victory Sports & Fitness
Owner/Fitness Professional
814-235-7676

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: FRANK HALDERMAN <fhalderman@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 7:58 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Centre County casino

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

Members,

I urge you to approve the application for the Centre County casino project asap. Despite the letters from opponents who apparently have the ability to foresee the future with such clarity it is hard to believe I am safe entering a casino. My wife and I are in our seventies and occasionally like to spend some leisure time with another couple at a casino. Unfortunately for us, it means a travel day to Harrisburg or the Rocky Gap casino in Maryland, which we actually prefer. It is a one way, 2 1/2 hour drive to Rocky Gap, which costs us more in gas money and in addition we always stop for lunch in Maryland. It is an additional travel risk driving to there. We would enjoy driving 5 miles to the proposed casino in Centre County. We would also prefer to spend our money locally. There is a benefit of tax money from the casino and its employees coming in to local government who will provide amenities for local residents, is a plus. Jobs for local residents means more housing opportunities and a better life. We don't need the local State College people, who are usually against everything and drove latest large employer (400+) jobs away, telling us how to spend out money. Don't let the fortune tellers, who can see the negatives and unknowns stop this project which will be good for Centre County.

Thank you,

Frank and Rosalie Halderman
163 East Curtin St.
Bellefonte, PA 16823
814-355-9824

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Amy Sharp <amy.sharp4@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 8:14 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Proposed Casino in Centre County

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

I am strongly opposed to the proposed casino in Centre County.

Daniel Sharp

Sent from my iPhone

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Vickie Barnett <vbarnett976@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 11:10 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Casino at Nittany Mall

ATTENTION: *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

This information is in regards to the application for the Casino at the Nittany Mall near State College ,PA.

I, as well as many other neighbors, are opposed to the installation of a casino at the Nittany Mall near State College, PA.

After the horrible tragedy of yet another school shooting in Texas, I was prompted to write this letter of opposition.

I am a retired elementary teacher from the nearby Bellefonte School District. During my 34 year teaching career in the district, I encountered many students who came from difficult and challenging home environments.

I, as well as many other teachers, worried about their futures, but were sometimes unable to change their course of life given their environmental instability.

Unfortunately, as we constantly read in the news in today's world, "desperate people do desperate things." Please reflect upon the actions of a desperate 18 year-old during the recent Texas school tragedy.

I firmly believe the casino provides yet another temptation for people to commit desperate criminal acts.

Gambling has been proven to be a medical addiction. I feel sorry for any addicted person, irregardless of the type of addiction.

My worry, living in the nearby town of Pleasant Gap, about 3 miles from the site of the new Casino, is that desperate people seeking money for their gambling addiction, may commit desperate acts, increasing the area's crime rate. In our world today, we certainly don't need additional acts of violence and loss of life to be committed by yet more people trying to seek money to support an addictive gambling habit.

Our area is growing, and many businesses are providing ample employment opportunities in various fields. It was just announced that a large "state of the art" medical facility will be constructed in State College. We have a new Giant grocery store with several restaurants under construction near the Nittany Mall. There are plentiful opportunities for employment in our area, without the need for additional employment opportunities provided by a Casino.

Please take into consideration my concerns regarding the Nittany Mall Casino prior to granting a permit for such in our area.

Thank you for your understanding and assistance with this matter of concern.

Sincerely,
Vickie Barnett

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Robert Puzak <rpuzak@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 5:02 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Nittany Mall Casino

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

This is a great idea and will allow the mall area to be revived. I did visit the casino at the Westmoreland Mall and it was great. I am not a gambler but I saw other businesses doing very well from the presence of people. I felt very safe, traffic was reasonable and I have absolutely no concerns for a casino at the mall.

I hope it attracts more restaurants other than the "student" focused ones in downtown State College.

Bob Puzak

Sent from my iPhone

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Lee Copper <lcopper33@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 9:19 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] State College Casino

***ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

Sirs:

My wife and I wanted to let it be known to you that we are both IN FAVOR of a casino in the State College area. We have both lived in the Nittany Mall area for the past 43 years and see many good reasons for the casino to be built and used.

Although we are not gamblers, I would imagine we will visit it to see what it is like.

Sincerely,
Lee and Ellen Copper

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Keith Maurer <KeithMaurer@scefc.org>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 9:24 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] No casino

ATTENTION: *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

To whom it may concern,

I am a concerned citizen who would like to express my opinion that there be no casino in Centre Country. I believe it would bring problems into our community and would be a negative influence.

Thank you,

Keith

Keith Maurer

Teaching Pastor
State College Evangelical Free Church
Keithmaurer@scefc.org
(814) 237-8020
www.scefc.org

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Robert Shepherd <tadpoleroad@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 10:08 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] opposition to Nittany Mall casino

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

1245 Westerly Parkway Hse, No. 48

State College, PA 16801

May, 23, 2022

My wife Ann and I are extremely opposed to this proposed casino as we know from personal experience some of the worst effects on nearby communities which are among the many negative impacts of casinos. Several years ago we purchased a very nice brand new cottage in Ocean City, NJ. We visited it frequently during the summer and fall but during the winter months we rented it.

Unfortunately our tenants turned out to be workers in the casinos in Atlantic City which was just seven miles away. They were typically late with their rent and at best untidy if not downright dirty. One day as I was in my office I got a phone call from a distraught father who told me that his son had been so severely injured at a party in our cottage that he lost his soccer scholarship to a prestigious college. I immediately phoned the Ocean City police who confirmed the incident.

We felt we had no option but to sell our property which we promptly did.

We firmly believe that the inevitable outcomes of a casino in Centre County will include a significant increase of similar misbehavior as well as too many cases of gambling addiction.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Shepherd

State College, PA

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Craig Evanego <cevanego@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 10:21 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Proposed Nittany Mall casino - public comment

***ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

To whom it may concern,

Please consider the well-being of the Centre County community before putting a casino in the Nittany Mall. The Centre County community is built around education, and empowering young people to improve their lives and the lives of others. As such, our goal should be to attract business and industry that supports the mission of improving lives and livelihoods.

Centre County should not cater to industry that appeals to people's vices, such as gambling. Sure, a casino may generate a couple hundred jobs in Centre County, but those jobs will predominantly be menial, low-skill jobs. Additionally, Centre County already has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the commonwealth. This is not a community that is struggling to create employment opportunities. As a community that is centered around education and improving the future's of young people, a casino is exactly the type of industry that Centre County should be discouraging.

Also consider that, being the location of a major university, Centre County has an unusually large percentage of young people. With a culture of partying that is centered around the university, we already have more problems than most communities with underage drinking and destructive binge-drinking. In addition to impacting the college population, these problems trickle down into the local high school community. With a young and impressionable population, Centre County should not be pursuing the addition of a casino industry that serves another one of people's vices (gambling).

Think of other communities around this country whose economy is centered around the casino industry. Qualities that many of these communities have in common are high crime rates and abnormally high levels of poverty. The casino industry likely came into each these communities with promises of jobs and improved livelihoods, but by-and-large those promises have not come to fruition.

Again, the Centre County community is built around education and empowering young people to improve their lives and the lives of others. As such, this community's goal should be to attract business and industry that supports the mission of improving lives and livelihoods. Please reconsider using the space available at Nittany Mall for something more constructive for the community at large.

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Clark, Paul <pclark@psu.edu>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 12:37 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Please Oppose the State College Gaming Casino

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

Board Members

Please oppose the licensing of the State College Gaming Casino. There is strong opposition to the casino among those of us who live in State College. From a cost/benefit perspective, the casino will add little to our community, while bringing many problems with it, including compulsive gambling. There is a particular danger of this given the casino's proximity to 48,000 college students. Many of the students living in our community have had no experience with organized gambling. Irresponsible behavior related to gambling could result in severe consequences for them just as they are beginning their adult lives. I believe the casino also will increase traffic and reduce property values.

Overall, State College residents oppose the proposed casino because we believe it will have a detrimental impact on our community.

I would particularly point to the compulsive or problem gambling plan include in the casino's application. The plan is inadequate and clearly shows by its boilerplate language that it has no serious concern about this issue and the damage it will do to our community.

Please vote against the State College Gaming OpCo application.

Paul Clark
1333 Park Hills Ave W
State College, PA

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: CHARLIE BAINBRIDGE <cbain007@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 1:21 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Casino - State College

ATTENTION: *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

Sent from my iPhone

Again I voice my opposition to the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall. The atrocity will not benefit anyone except those rapacious, self-absorbed money -centered people who stand to benefit.
Please keep in mind the majority of residents in this area who live here because of the wholesome atmosphere!
Please reject their proposal and tell them to go elsewhere to line their pockets!

Sincerely,
Charlie Bainbridge
State College

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Katherine Keim <k23759@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 1:43 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Proposed "mini" casino in State College

***ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

To the committee considering the application for a "mini" casino at the Nittany Mall in State College, PA.

I sincerely hope you will either turn down this application or at least delay any voting until at least 6 months from now.

I also believe you should have another hearing in State College about this proposal, because the previous hearing in the midst of a pandemic was inadequate for the needs of this community to truly know what is proposed.

There are a lot of unanswered questions and this development will affect the entire region, not just the township in which it is located.

I would like to see you have a hearing that includes an information session about the proposal, as well as a question and answer period so local people can learn just what we are getting into and therefore give you INFORMED feedback, instead of comments based on our own ideas of what a casino will and will not do here.

A lot of us were not in a position to attend your previous hearing, and in any case may have avoided it for health considerations.

If you want to also have a hearing in Harrisburg, that's fine, but the proposed location is not in Harrisburg, is it?

Therefore, it is necessary to again delay the vote, and proceed to schedule a public information session and take feedback IN STATE COLLEGE.

Thank you for your consideration.

KAKeim
333 Oakwood Ave.
State College, PA 16803

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Clark(she/her), Darlene <dac128@psu.edu>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 1:47 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Please Oppose the State College Gaming Casino

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

Board Members

Please oppose the licensing of the State College Gaming Casino. There is strong opposition to the casino among those of us who live in State College. From a cost/benefit perspective, the casino will add little to our community, while bringing many problems with it, including compulsive gambling. There is a particular danger of this given the casino's proximity to 48,000 college students. Many of the students living in our community have had no experience with organized gambling. Irresponsible behavior related to gambling could result in severe consequences for them just as they are beginning their adult lives. I believe the casino also will increase traffic and reduce property values.

Overall, State College residents oppose the proposed casino because we believe it will have a detrimental impact on our community.

I would particularly point to the compulsive or problem gambling plan include in the casino's application. The plan is inadequate and clearly shows by its boilerplate language that it has no serious concern about this issue and the damage it will do to our community.

Please vote against the State College Gaming OpCo application.

Darlene Clark
1333 Park Hills Ave W
State College, PA

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: DONALD GALIO <dag74@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 2:24 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Mini Casino at the Nittany Mall in State College

ATTENTION: *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

My wife & I fully support the addition of the Mini Casino at the Nittany Mall in State College. We feel that the casino will bring new vitality to the Mall along with jobs and improving the economy of the area. It will also bring much needed revenue to the area's local governments.

D. Galio and M. Galio

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Suzanne Paterno <suzanne@sageminder.com>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 2:44 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Nittany Mall Casino

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

We DO NOT want nor need the Casino.
Sent from my iPhone

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Liz Haushalter <haushouse100@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 3:03 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] State College Casino

ATTENTION: *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

This is not what is needed in State College. I oppose this idea.

Sincerely,

Liz Haushalter

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Daniel Materna <sailordan76@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 3:29 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Reply from the Office of the President of Penn State University (dated 5/26/2022)
Attachments: Open Letter to PSU President Bendapudi_May 18 2022.pdf; Shippensburg University question_January 19 2022 - Copy.pdf

***ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

Dear Commissioners of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board,

At the 1/19/2022 PGCB Board Meeting to approve or deny the casino license application for the Category 4 casino near Shippensburg, PA, the Commissioners asked the casino developers if anyone had reached out to **Shippensburg University** for their input. That apparently had not yet taken place (see the attached page 30 of the transcript of that PGCB Board meeting).

Let's not have a recurrence of that when the license for the proposed Nittany Mall Casino near Penn State University is voted on by the PGCB Commissioners. Therefore, the reply from Penn State's Office of President Neeli Bendapudi is provided below.

President Bendapudi's representative (Vice President Frank Guadagnino) replied yesterday regarding the proposed casino in Centre County, PA. That reply is provided below. My Open Letter of 5/18/2022 to President Bendapudi is also attached.

This same scenario, including the reply from the Office of the President, unfolded in an almost identical manner when former Penn State President Barron was asked to reply to the Open Letter of 3/5/2022. I'll e-mail those details and a copy of that Open Letter separately to members of the Board within the next two minutes.

Sincerely,
Daniel Materna
Centre County, PA

-----Original Message-----

From: Office of the President <President@psu.edu>
To: Daniel Materna <sailordan76@verizon.net>
Sent: Thu, May 26, 2022 1:39 pm
Subject: RE: Period to Receive Written Comments on Proposed Centre County Casino Project Closes on June 12th

Dear Mr. Materna:

As Vice President for Administration and Secretary of the Board of Trustees I help President Bendapudi and the Board respond to emails and important issues. President Bendapudi considers the town/gown relationship of critical importance to the success of Penn State and our surrounding community. She will be active in the community to build upon our unique relationship on matters of mutual interest and opportunity. As to this casino project, there are established mechanisms, practices and public input processes in place to consider the potential benefits and challenges and we are aware there is both support and opposition to the project being expressed. We are early in President Bendapudi's tenure, and as you might expect she is focused on moving forward initiatives that will directly positively impact the success of our

students, staff, and faculty. Regardless of the outcome of the proposed casino project, we will remain laser-focused on the safety and success of all parts of the Penn State community. We appreciate your reaching out.

Sincerely,
Frank Guadagnino

Frank T. Guadagnino
Vice President for Administration
Secretary of the Board of Trustees

From: owner-l-bot@lists.psu.edu <owner-l-bot@lists.psu.edu> **On Behalf Of** Daniel Materna
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 8:11 PM
To: Bendapudi, Neeli <neeli@psu.edu>
Cc: bot@psu.edu; Smith, Michael Wade <mwsmith@psu.edu>
Subject: Period to Receive Written Comments on Proposed Centre County Casino Project Closes on June 12th

Dear President Bendapudi,

Earlier today the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB) issued a press release concerning a revised deadline of June 12 for public comment concerning the casino planned for the Nittany Mall. All details are included in the press release below:

Additionally, this afternoon the Centre Daily Times published the following article regarding the June 12 deadline as well as the current status of the casino's license application review process:

Casino at Nittany Mall near Penn State could be moving forward | Centre Daily Times

I continue to look forward to your reply to my Open Letter to you from last Wednesday.

Please send the PGCB your feedback on Penn State's position regarding the planned casino before June 12. We're counting on you to end the absolute silence from Penn State.

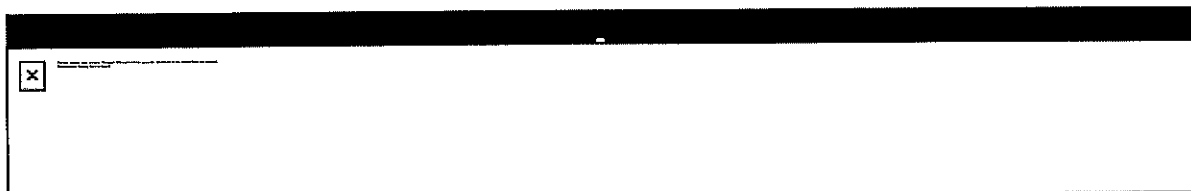
The area residents in Happy Valley look forward to hearing if you want the casino's license to be approved or denied.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Daniel Materna
Howard, PA

-----Original Message-----

From: Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board <pgcb@pa.gov>
To: sailordan76@verizon.net
Sent: Tue, May 24, 2022 12:24 pm
Subject: Period to Receive Witten Comments on Proposed Centre County Casino Project Closes on June 12th



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 23rd, 2022

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
Commonwealth Tower, Strawberry Square

An Open Letter to Penn State University President Bendapudi

Dear President Bendapudi,

Regarding the proposed Nittany Mall Casino, I wrote and published an Open Letter to former Penn State President Barron on March 5. No response was received from Old Main.

Please consider integrating college gambling education and prevention efforts into existing Penn State programs about alcohol, drugs, and other risky behaviors.

75 percent of college students gambled during the past year (whether legally or illegally). Most of those students who are old enough to legally gamble can do so responsibly, but the most recent research estimates that six percent of college students have a serious gambling problem that can result in gambling addiction, unmanageable debt and failing grades.

Penn State has already responded vigorously to alcohol-related problems. As you know, all colleges and universities have policies on student alcohol use; however, only 22 percent have a formal policy on gambling. Those without policies in place have the responsibility to inform students of the risks of excessive gambling as well as how to recognize the escalation of recreational gambling into problem gambling and finally into a gambling addiction.

Now is the time for Penn State to meet that challenge and implement a formal policy on gambling.

Now is not the time for Penn State to continue to refuse to even acknowledge the proposal for Bally's Corporation to open a casino in the vacant Macy's store at the Nittany Mall.

The Penn State Board of Trustees? Absolutely silent. To them, the proposed casino is a non-issue and a done deal. It is also an off-limits topic that is required to be ignored as mandated by their unspoken pledge of allegiance to donors powerful enough to impose that mandate upon the university.

Now is absolutely the time for Penn State to finally speak out publicly as to whether Penn State University supports the approval or the denial of the casino's license application for the proposed Nittany Mall casino. There over five hundred public comments of casino opposition posted on the [College Township website](#).

Each of those concerned citizens e-mailed their casino-related feedback to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB) at boardclerk@pa.gov.

Since April 15, over 1,100 people have signed an online petition opposing the Nittany Mall Casino. 965 local opponents of the casino have signed a hard-copy petition to express their strong opposition to the casino.

Penn State University must do the same right now by providing the PGCB with the University's official position about the recommended approval or denial of the casino's license application. It is time to end the policy of absolute silence that Penn State has continually showed about the Nittany Mall Casino.

Thank you for your consideration of this important and growing issue. Your leadership in voicing Penn State's support of or opposition to the Nittany Mall Casino would be appreciated.

Your predecessor chose to ignore our pleas to address this issue. WE ARE confident that you will not make that same choice!

Sincerely,
Daniel Materna
Howard, PA

303 Walnut Street, 5th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

CONTACT

Doug Harbach or Richard McGarvey
(717) 346-8321

**Period to Receive Written Comments on Proposed Centre County Casino
Project Closes on June 12th**

HARRISBURG, PA: The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (Board) announced today that the period of public comment on the proposed Category 4 casino in College Township in Center County by SC Gaming Op Co., LLC will close on Sunday June 12, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

In making the decision, the Board believes sufficient time has passed to receive adequate public comment on the matter. That period began on July 21, 2021 prior to a public input hearing in College Township on August 16th of that year. The Board had previously decided that due to special circumstances related to the Covid-19 pandemic, the period for public comment would remain open.

(continue reading)

[Gamingcontrolboard.pa.gov](https://gamingcontrolboard.pa.gov)

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1 Knowing that Shippensburg is a college
2 town, one of the concerns I would have is have you
3 worked with the University to talk to the student
4 body as to the consequences for underage gambling as
5 a concern of the Commission here, that in the past,
6 you know, what you look at, these situations. It's
7 new to the town, new, the situation. And I've just
8 wondered if you've reached out to Shippensburg
9 University at all?

10 ATTORNEY STEWART: May it please,
11 Board, Mark Stewart with Eckert Seamans. Mr.
12 Strathmeyer, the project has not proceeded to that -
13 you know, to that point yet. We certainly plan to
14 have those communications. But you know, we've been
15 working to get to the license and now assuming that
16 the Board would approve the application, that would
17 on the to-do list in terms of implementing and
18 developing the casino.

19 MR. STRATHMEYER: Thank you.

20 ATTORNEY STEWART: Thank you.

21 CHAIR: Any further questions,
22 comments? If not, Enforcement Counsel, do you have a
23 presentation.

24 ATTORNEY CROHE: The Enforcement
25 Counsel - Office of Enforcement Counsel has one

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Nathan Tack <nathanjtack@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 3:55 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Cc: neelibendapudi@psu.edu; bot@psu.edu
Subject: [External] Constituent Opposition to the Nittany Mall Casino

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board,

My name is Nathan Tack. I am a resident of the State College, PA area and a current Penn State student.

I am writing to indicate my strong opposition to the licensing of the proposed Nittany Mall Casino. Adding a casino would profit a select few in the community while harming the vast majority of your constituents in the State College area. There is absolutely no need for a casino in this community and gambling among college students nationwide is already on the rise. Some studies (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/17882602/>) indicate that 23% of college students already gamble online. Applying those statistics to the Penn State University Park student body (~40k students), the Nittany Mall Casino could produce 9,345 college gamblers in the town of State College. For that calculation, statistics from the Penn State academic year 2019-2020 were used: <https://admissions.psu.edu/apply/statistics/>.

Please understand that college gamblers do not make studious college students. Studying and gambling could not peacefully coincide in a student's lifestyle. A land-grant educational institution like Penn State understands that its best interest is to keep its students' interest geared towards their studies. Licensing a casino would be detrimental to this interest. This is supported by Penn State's budget information: <https://budget.psu.edu/wheredoestuitiongo.aspx>.

My opposition to this proposed casino license represents myself, the State College community, and the University Park student community. One of the clubs I am actively involved in, Students For Life, has also expressed opposition to a new casino in the area, citing an expected decrease in student health should the Nittany Mall Casino be established.

To the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, I urge you as a constituent to deny the license for the Nittany Mall Casino.

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Respectfully,
Nathan Tack

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: pris shea <prishome@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 4:20 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Nittany mall casino

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

I am totally against having a casino built @ Nittany Mall. 1. Though is is a commercial area per se, there are many residential areas in walking distance. There are also large pieces of land with generational ownership & occupancy near by.

2. Add to that the type of clientele who will come from distances & disrupt these people's lives.

3. traffic!

4. Gambling is addictive & those who lose money are usually those who cannot afford to lose. This is not a moral issue, but a common sense one.

5. College students are exposed to many new things in life & I don't believe legalized gambling is a necessity nor good one for them to have readily available.

6. My belief is that 'movers & shakers' will make lots of money & then leave the county & boros to deal with the problems & spend money that should be directed to schools, elder care, public projects on the casino & related problems.

I have more but this is common sense...NO to casino in our family oriented Centre County.

Sent from my iPhone

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Jancie Benninghoff <racengolden@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 4:29 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Casino in state College

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

Sent from my iPad we are truly excited and looking forward to having the casino in college township. Thankyou so much for your consideration and we hope that it will pass. Most sincerely, Dante p. Englebright. 233 Old Mill road..state College, pa. 16801. 929-286-2580.

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Jancie Benninghoff <racengolden@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 4:32 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Local casino

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

We and so many others are for the proposed Bally's casino in state College.

Sent from my iPad. Richard Benninghoff. College township. 814-237-4647

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Jeanne H <jvhouston@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 5:18 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Casino

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

Hello Board members,

I am writing to make known my opposition to the casino that is proposed in the Nittany Mall. Please say no to this establishment which I believe and statistics back me up will ruin our town and depreciate the character of our community while at the appreciation of only Mr. Lubert's pockets. I live close to the Mall and I am aghast at the thought of such a place.

Regards,
Jeanne Houston

Sent from my iPhone

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Charles White <charlie.white@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 8:36 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Opposition to Nittany Mall Casino

***ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

Dear PGCB,

This email is to register my opposition to the casino proposal at the Nittany Mall in State College, PA. I have owned a home with my wife in College Township, Centre County since 2009 and have two children who were born here and attend the local public schools. I am alumni of Penn State, work there, and hope to spend the rest of my working life living in State College. One of the main reasons we chose to settle down and raise a family here is because of the wholesome, family friendly environment nurtured by the community here. Establishing a casino in our neighborhood would destroy the character of this community and make it less attractive for us to live in and less attractive for other families that may be considering moving here in the future. A casino would certainly be the beginning of the erosion of the community that we have worked hard to become a part of. I hope that you will reject the proposal to create a casino at the Nittany Mall.

Sincerely,
Charlie White

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Mitch Smith <PastorMitch@cccsc.org>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 8:43 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] No to casino in College Townshi

ATTENTION: *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

I am requesting you veto the proposed casino for the Nittany Mall in College Township.

Thank you,
Pastor Mitch Smith
355 Whitehill St
Lemont , Pa 16851

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Loretta Owen <lorettajoowen@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 11:11 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Opposition to the casino, Nittany Mall, state college

ATTENTION: *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

To whom It May concern,

I am writing on behalf of my family and my community in opposition to the casino being proposed at the Nittany Mall. I live and own a home 2 miles from the proposed site in State College, College township, Lower Grandview Road. Members of my family work at the local hospital and we are invested in our community. We would like this to continue to be a family friendly place for our three children. Please do not allow this casino to be built 2 miles from our home.

Loretta Owen

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Nancy Cone <nancycone56@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 11:13 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Stop the cassino

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

For the benefit of our community and especially our children, do not allow this destructive lifestyle a foothold in our community. Money hungry people do not have our best interest in mind. Only selfish gain. Communities with casinos only suffer from those lost and deluded as they squander funds needed for basic necessities on gambling. The result is depression, homelessness and suicide.

Stop this selfish pursuit now for the sake of our community and our children.

There are far better ways to use the mall property!

Respectfully,

Nancy Cone, Resident and concerned grandparent

An online idea to consider for our mall that can make good profit and jobs:

- Creating front-facing e-commerce marketplaces
- Establishing cooperative backroom fulfillment operations
- Demanding a universal point-of-sale system
- Investing in architectural improvements for concierge services, like order pickup and curbside deliveries and returns

Step one — malls should build branded digital marketplaces. They should showcase all the retailers within their walls, “extend the aisle” of those retailers, and also exhibit local level retail that may not be ready for the prime time of everyday physical retail operations.

The fact that this has not happened already boggles the mind. For decades retailers used malls as their physical marketplaces, so why should they not use malls as digital marketplaces as well? Everyone wins at a relatively low cost, and many of the retailers to which the malls lease their space are already using Amazon for this very idea! It is hardly a change at all.

Step two — build the physical infrastructural guts to let the love flow. This effort starts with malls designing collaborative backrooms.

While this step also requires getting the retailers on board, it too should be an easy sell. For instance what is the benefit of every specialty retailer operating their own backroom? Stocking and replenishment (say nothing of shipping!) is now almost a white-label activity at this point for digitally-native brands, and yet, at malls throughout the

country, Gap still thinks it needs to operate its own backroom logistics and J.Crew does too.

Stop the madness!

“Pool the backrooms!” should be cry that rings out across the land, from sea to shining sea, and mall operators should then design the guts of their buildings so that retailers can operate out of these shared “fulfillment communes” behind the scenes. Intraday operations would not be affected and, lo and behold, the latest in automation and fulfillment tech could be used to pick and pack orders too, which leads to the next point.

Step three — design the mall to be a full concierge/style experience for consumers. An enticing marketplace front end and a more efficient back end fulfillment setup should be complemented with a universal mall mobile point-of-sale system, so mall goers can shop any store they want, however they want, both online and in the physical world, alongside amenities, like curbside pickup hubs and/or order pickup lockers, for both consumers and crowd-sourced delivery drivers alike, and for the products that may not even be carried within the four walls of the mall.

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: barbara alexander <tickey1too@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 28, 2022 8:36 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External]

***ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

Please, no casino.

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: cathy walker <cwalker100@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 9:41 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] casino

ATTENTION: *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

Please consider strongly approving the casino for the Nittany Mall in State College Pa.

It would be a great source of revenue to the community.

Casinos are not as a lot of snobs portray them. They provide a lot of recreation and socializing. There is more of a threat to addicting more people with the online gambling that is available everyday all day.

It is a lot better for the community than all of the drug use and drug centers.

Thanks

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Spivey, Norman <fns2@psu.edu>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 1:46 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Please DENY Nittany Mall Casino

ATTENTION: *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

I am writing in **opposition** of the proposed Nittany Mall casino. My family and I believe that approving this would be a mistake for our community.

Norman Spivey
State College, PA

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Jan Witmer <remtiw@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 2:13 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Nittany Mall casino

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

Good afternoon,

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to a casino at the Nittany Mall in State College. A casino would be a drain on our community, leading to addictive behavior, increased crime, destroyed marriages and damaged families. As a Bellefonte resident, I know that many local people are already experiencing struggles and problems. Introducing a gambling venue would create countless more problems. I ask that you please deny a license for this casino.

Respectfully,
Jan Witmer

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Amy Rothrock <amy.rothrock@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 28, 2022 11:05 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Casino

ATTENTION: *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

To Whom It May Concern:

We are residents of the borough of State College and are deeply concerned about the possibility of a casino coming into our area. The residents of State College DO NOT want a casino here. This is a family community and a casino does not support our values. Also, we are concerned for the thousands of Penn State students who would have such easy access to gambling--they are young and many are vulnerable and some will develop gambling addictions that will be with them for the rest of their lives. The actions of the gaming board will literally make or break lives . . . And for what? Just so that some developers can make millions. Again--this is NOT the will of the residents. Please do not agree to the license.

Thank you,

Amy and Ling Rothrock
1035 Greenfield Cir
State College, PA 16801
814-880-8160

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Miranda Auhl <mirmirmchenry@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 28, 2022 12:02 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Opposition to the Nittany Mall casino

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

My husband and I were both born and raised in State College. This community is important to us and we always want to seek to protecting the people within it, as I believe all people should do. This is why I am shocked and quite appalled that the board would even consider letting a casino open in our town at the Nittany Mall.

As someone who studied mathematics and game theory (at Penn State), casinos exist because almost every game is stacked in their favor. They prey on people with the allure of winning knowing full well the folks gambling will most often lose money. This is money from the community that could be used to support our community or even the individuals livelihood.

Not only would this casino sap money from individuals and the community, it has been found that 1% of those who gamble become addicted. Now this may seem small but please consider the following. State college alone has a population of about 100,000 with students. Say 15% of those people go to this casino. Then 1% of those individuals either are likely to be addicted to gambling or will become addicted to gambling. That means that 1,500 individuals would become addicted. That is 1,500 individuals that could lose their livelihood because of your decision. Additionally, studies have found higher rates of suicide among those who have a gambling issue, rates as high as 37% among men and 14% among women. This means that your decision on this casino could quite literally save up to 500 people from death... or condemn them.

You may think that it is up to an individual to make the decision to gamble and thus these addictions and deaths would not be on your hands. But I would like you to consider... what if one of those individuals was you son or daughter? Your grandson or granddaughter. How would you feel if you were the reason a casino opened in this town, and due to convenience and boredom they tried gambling, became addicted, lost everything, and took their own life. How would you feel? Anyone that hurts themselves because of this casino is a daughter or a son to someone. Could be a mother, a father, a friend.

Now you may think that this is a small chance or such a small number of people. But one life is worth far more then money or entertainment. And we are talking about far more then just one life your decision would impact.

I think you should all greatly reflect at even considering this decision and I asked that you please refuse allowing a casino to be opened in our town.

Miranda Auhl

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Miranda Auhl <mirmirmchenry@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 28, 2022 12:45 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Re: Opposition to the Nittany Mall casino

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

Excuse my error in calculation on the first email I corrected it below. I truly hope you think about the individuals that would most negatively impacted by this decision.

On Sat, May 28, 2022 at 12:02 PM Miranda Auhl <mirmirmchenry@gmail.com> wrote:

My husband and I were both born and raised in State College. This community is important to us and we always want to seek to protecting the people within it, as I believe all people should do. This is why I am shocked and quite appalled that the board would even consider letting a casino open in our town at the Nittany Mall.

As someone who studied mathematics and game theory (at Penn State), casinos exist because almost every game is stacked in their favor. They prey on people with the allure of winning knowing full well the folks gambling will most often lose money. This is money from the community that could be used to support our community or even the individuals livelihood.

Not only would this casino sap money from individuals and the community, it has been found that 1% of those who gamble become addicted. Now this may seem small but please consider the following. State college alone has a population of about 100,000 with students. Say 15% of those people go to this casino. Then 1% of those individuals either are likely to be addicted to gambling or will become addicted to gambling. That means that 150 individuals would become addicted. That is 150 individuals that could lose their livelihood because of your decision. Additionally, studies have found higher rates of suicide among those who have a gambling issue, rates as high as 37% among men and 14% among women. This means that your decision on this casino could quite literally save up to 50 people from death... or condemn them.

You may think that it is up to an individual to make the decision to gamble and thus these addictions and deaths would not be on your hands. But I would like you to consider... what if one of those individuals was you son or daughter? Your grandson or granddaughter. How would you feel if you were the reason a casino opened in this town, and due to convenience and boredom they tried gambling, became addicted, lost everything, and took their own life. How would you feel? Anyone that hurts themselves because of this casino is a daughter or a son to someone. Could be a mother, a father, a friend.

Now you may think that this is a small chance or such a small number of people. But one life is worth far more then money or entertainment. And we are talking about far more then just one life your decision would impact.

I think you should all greatly reflect at even considering this decision and I asked that you please refuse allowing a casino to be opened in our town.

Miranda Auhl

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: horacio perezblanco <horneop@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 28, 2022 2:58 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Opposition to State College casino

ATTENTION: *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

Thank you for giving the citizenry one last chance to offer an opinion on the proposed casino. Due to multiple reasons, ranging from bad economics to lack of identification with the athletic and recreational leanings of our community, passing through the poor quality of the jobs to be generated, I remain very much opposed to this venture.

Respectfully,

Horacio Perez-Blanco
Borough of State College

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Kara D <karadee@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 28, 2022 9:17 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Opposition to Nittany Mall Casino

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

I am writing again to express my opposition to the proposed casino to be located in the Nittany Mall in State College, College Township, PA. On a personal level, I am a property owner in College Township, live approximately one mile from the Nittany Mall and believe its opening will negatively impact the value of my property. As a community member of this county since 1972, I believe this casino will bring more harm than good to this area. This area has an enormous population of college-aged people, a population that is very vulnerable to addictive behavior like gambling. I worry that a casino's presence here will lead to an increase in criminal activity and emergency calls that our current police and first responders will not be able to handle. Paying for more police presence will lead to an increased tax burden on property owners like myself. Plus our local emergency services (ambulance & fire) are 100% volunteer staffed and donation funded. If there are more emergencies due to casino-related problems such as increased addiction, overdose & DUI vehicle accidents, this will put an even greater strain on these already stretched services for our community. Please reject approval of this casino.

Thank you,
Kara Dixon
PSU Alumni
State College, PA

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Stacey Karchner <skarchner9@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 28, 2022 9:35 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Cc: andrewshaffer148@gmail.com
Subject: [External] NO Casino in State College, PA

ATTENTION: *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

Hi,
I oppose the casino for State College, PA. The casino will prey on those with gambling problems and actually contribute to their illness. The casino lures many who do not have the income and actually will contribute to the poverty in the region. It will be a gateway for drugs and prostitution. Think about the families rather than lining your pockets.
Thanks,
Stacey K

May 30, 2022

500 E. Maryland Ave, H125
State College, PA 16801

PA Gaming Control Board

303 Walnut St.

5th Floor Commonwealth Tower

Harrisburg, PA 17101

Att: Board clerk,

I understand that I still have time to protest - AGAIN - the building of a casino in our Centre County area. (I have previously signed a petition to that effect.)

When I lived in New Jersey, I saw first hand, at Atlantic City, gamblers in dire straits trying to "beat the system" - which you know, as well as I, can never be done.

The only "winners" are the casino owners & managers.

Having traveled to Las Vegas (alias "Lost Wages") on a business trip with my husband, I observed a very young couple with a newborn baby in the breakfast room. What on earth, besides a gambling addiction, could excuse the presence of an infant in such an environment??

Psychologists have affirmed that a gambling addiction is probably the most difficult of all to overcome.

Living in a college town, I fear for Penn State students who may fall into this trap.

WE DO NOT NEED OR WANT a casino in our neighborhood!!

A concerned citizen, Dorothy C. Lutz

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: John Pitterle <jpitterle@protonmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2022 8:11 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Large Majority Reject Casino Plan in State College, PA

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

BoardClerk,

Like most people in the Centre region, I am strongly opposed to the proposed casino in the Nittany Mall of State College, PA. We do not want to open the door to legalized gambling and all of the many significant associated problems that come with it.

It's a no-brainer. Brining a casino to this region will adversely change many good things and would unfortunately harm and mess up the lives of way too many people. While some can responsibly deal with gambling, some cannot. As a result, lives and families would suffer serious and significant harm if gambling would come to this town. We know this from looking at other cities with casinos.

Please listen to the majority. Please carefully not the large numbers of signatures on physical and virtual petitions.

I live only a couple minutes away from the Nittany Mall in College Township (in State College, PA). We, area residents, do not want gambling and all the associated negative problems in our township!!!

Very Sincerely,

John Pitterle

108 Kuhns Lane
State College, PA 16801

College Township

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Kris Danford <kldanford@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2022 9:18 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] NO CASINO!

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

Good morning,
I'm writing to voice my opposition to this casino. Casinos are not good for communities!! There are so many other things we need before a casino which will only bring crime and addiction.
We don't need to bring in something that make this area trashy.
(How about an indoor playground or a mall that actually has some stores someone would like to shop at?) NO to this casino.
Kris

Sent from my iPhone

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Jed Neilson <jed.neilson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2022 12:52 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Opposition to casino in Centre County

***ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

Hello, I am a resident of State College. **I am writing to formally voice my opposition to the proposed casino at the old Nittany Mall in State College.**

Casinos, lotteries, and other forms of gambling are essentially a tax on the poor and uneducated. They do not add value to communities, but instead lead to deterioration of communities. If a casino is built there, I will avoid that area of town because of all that the casino attracts. I know there are also people who live in the area who would be looking to move if the casino was built there. **Please do not approve a casino anywhere in Centre County.**



ReplyForward

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Karen Patzer <kpatzer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2022 2:16 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Objection to the Casino in Centre County

ATTENTION: *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

PLEASE reconsider the location of the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall in Centre County. My parents lived in Las Vegas for 25 years and I have seen first hand the negative influence that a casino can have. Crime and homelessness and desperation increased, as well as related businesses associated with gambling, such as payday loans & pawn shops. None of this is good for a family focused community or college town or my neighborhood, which is within walking distance of the mall.

There has to be a better location than our small community.

Karen Patzer
College Township, Centre County, PA

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Bonnie Dripps <drippsbk@dm.org>
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2022 3:50 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Casino plans in State College area

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To whom it may concern,

I have written previously to voice my opposition to the opening of a Casino at the Nittany Mall in State College, PA. I won't go through all the reasons again, but I remain steadfast in my opposition as it will bring more addiction and criminal activity to the area Please do not move forward with this Casino plan.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Dripps

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: John Pitterle <jpitterle@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2022 3:53 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Nittany Mall Casino

ATTENTION: *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

I am writing this email to restate that I want you to seriously consider not allowing a casino in College Township, State College PA.

I live a few miles from the proposed site. I have read research that areas with casinos have increased crime. Also that gambling addictions ruin families. On top of that the young college population close by will be greatly affected. We want our up and coming college graduates to have the best chance of succeeding. Adding the temptation to gamble away money they do not have will only hinder their future financial success.

I have owned property in College Township since 1994. I love my quiet peaceful neighborhood. Please do not jeopardize our town with the addition of a Casino at the Nittany Mall!

Sincerely,
Leigh Pitterle

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Peggy Myers <peggymp1950@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2022 5:44 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Proposed Casino at the Nittany Mall

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To Whomever it may Concern.

We remain **strongly opposed** to the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall, in State College.

Don and Peggy Myers
Spring Mills, PA

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Bridget Donnelly <delas115@imsooverwhelmed.com>
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2022 8:08 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Casino proposal at the Nittany Mall

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I am opposed to the development of a casino at the Nittany Mall. --

Bridget Donnelly

Donnelly's Estate

Liquidation

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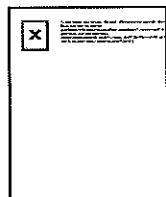
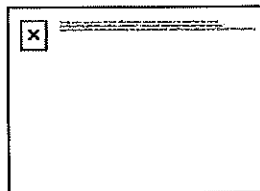
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delas115@ImSoOverwhelmed.com

www.ImSoOverwhelmed.com



Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Amy Cooper <aims_cooper@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2022 9:28 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Opposition to casino

ATTENTION: *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

Dear Board,

I am writing to reaffirm my opposition to the casino at Nittany Mall in State College, PA. As a parent, I can't see any good that would come from having a casino in a college town. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,
Amy White

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Tom and Jan <witmer2@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2022 9:29 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Nittany Mall casino

ATTENTION: *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

Good Morning,

I'm writing to reiterate my intense opposition to the establishment of a casino at the Nittany Mall near State College, PA. I believe that a casino would be detrimental to our community, encouraging many to engage in activity that they cannot afford. This would result in addictions, broken families, increased crime and other problems. I ask that you please not allow a casino to be established in the Centre Region.

Sincerely,
Tom Witmer
Bellefonte, PA

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Sonya Woods <sjsmwoods@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 8:07 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] opposition to proposed casino

***ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.*

I am writing to reiterate my opposition to the proposed casino in State College. The casino would be bad for our community for numerous reasons. It would hurt the local economy and the lives of students and families. Please do not approve the permit for the casino.

Thank you, Sonya Woods
Centre County resident of 20 years

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Elizabeth Crisfield <ecrisfield@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 11:43 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] NO Nittany Mall Casino

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To whom it may concern -

I strongly oppose the proposed casino at Nittany Mall in State College. Casinos are like money vacuum cleaners - sucking hard-earned money from many who simply can't afford it. There is no silver lining.

Please do not allow this in our community.

Elizabeth Crisfield
110 Chambers Alley, Boalsburg, PA 16827
814 777 3395

814 777 3395
The Strategic Stewardship Initiative

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Jason Maas <jason@djmaas.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 1:56 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Opposition to casino at Nittany Mall

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

Hello,

I'm a resident of the State College Borough. I wrote to you early in the process to explain why I'm opposed to a casino at the Nittany Mall in Centre County.

Since then I have heard from many others who oppose the casino, and some who are in favor of it. None of the arguments in favor of it have been very persuasive to me.

Therefore I am writing again to let you know that I'm still strongly opposed to a casino at the Nittany Mall.

Casinos tend to take advantage of people who are bad at math, taking money from the poor and sending it to the rich owners who live out of the area. It's an inequitable way for the government to generate revenue compared to traditional taxes on income, sales and property. A casino also fuels greed and a "get rich quick" mindset which is counterproductive to a society that should be encouraging people to work hard, live within their means and save for unexpected expenses.

Please do not grant a casino license for the proposed project in Centre County at the Nittany Mall.

Sincerely,
Jason Maas
731 W. Beaver Ave
State College, PA 16801

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Stephany Romano <sjr202@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 3:32 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Re: casino in State College

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

I am 100% against building a casino in State College.

I do believe it will contribute to an increase in criminal activity, physical altercations, drunkenness including drunk driving and other issues our police and hospital are not staffed to deal with, no should they need to be.

More importantly I do not believe that gambling should be readily available to students who might mistakenly view it as a way to deal with their school related financial problems. Besides starting them on their way to gambling addiction, they are likely to increase their debt or bankrupt themselves. In addition the harm that can be done to young families is terrible.

It is well known that the brains of college aged students are not yet fully matured. They make a lot of bad decisions. Why put another right in their community? Students are successful in getting fake ID's in order to get into bars. I am sure they would be just as successful to gain access to a casino.

I cannot even believe a former trustee who claims to love Penn State would want to make money in this community by starting a casino here to make money off backs of Penn State employees and students. Casinos do not give back. It is well known they are fixed to benefit the Casino not its users stores, restaurants, or other businesses which actually benefit the community.

Yes, State College can use new businesses. But, no. This is not the attraction we need for residents or as an enticement for visitors

Respectfully,
Stephany J Romano
Centre County Resident

Stephany J Romano

Chocolate is necessary for survival.
Dinosaurs did not have chocolate.
They did not survive.

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Telegraphis Bonnie <bktelegraphis@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 5:53 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Casino

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

I strongly oppose the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall in State College, Pa.

Bonnie Telegraphis

Sent from my iPhone
Bonnie Telegraphis

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Harvey Haack <harvey_haack@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 6:07 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Casino

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I'm opposed to casino.

Sent from my iPhone

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Chris Paveglio <chris@paveglio.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 7:44 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Nittany Mall Casino

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

Hello,

I would like to write in opposition to the Nittany Mall Casino. I do not want a casino in my city bringing poverty, addiction, and crime with it. Casino's are not providing a beneficial service to anyone except their owners. They are literally designed to take money from their patrons. Areas around casinos see lower home and land values, and then that brings poverty, which leads to crime. I don't want to see beautiful, safe, and vibrant State College area be overrun with corruption or crime. I don't want to see college students spend all their monthly budget on gambling, or become addicted to it. All one needs to know about casinos can be seen in any other casino city, just blocks from the buildings are run down or empty apartments. It's sad. I have lived here for 8 years, go to work at a major weather service in town, and me and my wife pay our taxes. I do not want this unscrupulous business and the negative side effects it would bring to my town.

Thank you,
Chris Paveglio
1024 Greenfield Circle
State College, PA 16801

Chris Paveglio
chris@paveglio.com