

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Meg Pedlow Smith <mpedlowsmith@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 4:00 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.*

To the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board:

This email is to voice my opposition to the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall in State College, PA. I am a College Township resident and I, along with many of my neighbors, do not want to see a casino move into our backyard. College Township is a nice place to live and has no need for such an establishment.

I know that many others have already written to you with statistics on crime and gambling addiction associated with casinos. I do not need to repeat these numbers, but do feel compelled to add my voice to the chorus of concerned citizens. Please vote "no" on the license for the Nittany Mall casino.

Sincerely,
Meg Pedlow Smith

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Jeffrey Catchmark <jcatchmark@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:51 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Cc: Jeffrey Catchmark
Subject: [External] Stop casino development in State College Nittany Mall

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strongest opposition to the proposed casino in the State College Nittany Mall. Such a development will not enhance or develop our community and bring a very negative atmosphere. We should be investing and developing such locations in a manner that will bring families together and enhance positive community values. Gambling brings a completely negative atmosphere and will promote the development of negative behaviors and even addiction at a location in close proximity to a major university. Students should be developing their values and careers, pursuing scholarship and contributing to the world in a positive way. Gambling accomplishes nothing positive and should never be encouraged. Building a casino will contribute nothing to the positive social development of the region. This must be stopped.

I am now aware of hundreds of people and families that have spoken out against this development. It needs to be stopped. The community does not want it or the atmosphere it brings. Please stop this development immediately.

Dr. Jeffrey Catchmark
State College Resident

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Childs, Jane L <jlc3@psu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 12:05 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Nittany Mall Casino

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Don't do it. Don't allow a casino to take over the Macy's of the Nittany Mall. Casinos only make the owner rich or richer. They are not a benefit to the local community. They are at the root of crime, addiction, family break ups. There is no benefit to this community. The potential employment numbers are very small. Crime, addiction, compulsive gambling... None of this improves or supports this community, only brings huge, systemic problems that will long outlast any short-term benefits. Don't let greed sway your decision about this license.

Jane L. Childs
State College, PA

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Voight, Barry <bxv1@psu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 12:52 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.*

Dear Madam or Sir,

This is to voice our **strong opposition** to the Nittany Mall Casino.

It would be a detriment to our community. The addition of minor state tax revenue is not worth the harm it would bring to our neighborhood.

It would increase addiction to gambling and drain the pocketbooks of many local citizens, especially those who could least afford it. The money they spend would go out of county instead of to local business.

There would be some increase in local crime.

I am absolutely opposed.

Thank you,
Barry and MaryAnne Voight

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Leon, Don Alvaro <dal1@psu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 4:26 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Please -- 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.*

Hello,

I am writing to express my opposition to turning Nittany Mall into a gambling venue. Morally, I'm opposed to it, but perhaps more importantly to our local officials, is that a casino not only does not generate the kind of income that its proponents like to talk about (look at Atlantic City), but it does engender a criminal element that ends up ruining the attractiveness of the area as a place to move or locate a business.

Sincerely,
Don A. Leon
Professor Emeritus, College of Arts & Architecture
Penn State University

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: GERALD GEARHART <jerry@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 7:34 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] A new casino?

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The very last thing this town needs.

Jerry Gearhart

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Andrew Shaffer <andrewshaffer148@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:55 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Further Additional Public Feedback Regarding Proposed 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.

Dear Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board,

As you are considering the licensing decision for the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall, please consider the following additional letters to the editor that have been published by the Centre Daily Times and StateCollege.com since I last submitted information on this topic on 12/21/2021. A total of three additional letters to the editor have been submitted to these sites on the topic of the Nittany Mall Casino during this time period, and all three of these letters oppose the proposed casino.

Also, I am including one additional letter to the editor from LockHaven.com that opposes the Nittany Mall Casino in this batch of public feedback. LockHaven.com has posted several letters to the editor opposing the Nittany Mall Casino that essentially duplicate other letters that have already been submitted for your review as part of the public feedback that was posted on the Centre Daily Times website; this additional letter appears to be the only one currently posted on this site that contains public comments regarding the casino that have not already been submitted for your consideration.

The relevant letters are copied below and sorted chronologically for your convenience. Each article is also followed by a link to the URL from which it was copied on 1/13/2022.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew Shaffer
State College, Pennsylvania

=====

Letter #24

12/18/2021

Objection to gambling casino State College

I have several objections to permitting a gambling casino of any size within five miles of 46,000 teenage college students at Penn State — or within five miles of anyone for that matter:

1. Having a gambling casino so close to a major university will be putting temptation in the paths of tens of thousands of teenage college students that in too many cases can be described as “children in adult bodies.” And many of us know how well some college students are in resisting temptation. The fake IDs that are already

being used to obtain alcohol are going to be tried out to gain entry into any gambling casino they can get anywhere near.

2. Gambling has been considered both immoral and illegal for centuries in the Commonwealth and throughout the country to the point that it has been operated as an illegal enterprise associated with organized crime. It is highly questionable that any gambling casino can exist today without some connection with organized crime. And I understood years ago that members of the Mafia have put on business suits and have made an intentional effort to operate their criminal activities behind the facades of legitimacy of for-profit businesses.

3. Casino gambling is legalized thievery. All the games in a gambling casino are rigged in favor of the house and the owner of the games. And it would not surprise me if all games that can be controlled by a computer algorithm are. In other words, no one will be allowed to “win” until a certain amount of money has been lost by those playing the “games of chance.” Slot machines are called “one-armed bandits” for a reason. As a friend said to his daughter when he was driving her down The Strip in Las Vegas, “Do you see all this (the gambling casinos with their glittering neon lights). All this was built by losers.”

He didn’t mention and probably didn’t know that the Las Vegas gambling casinos were built and run by the Mafia. The Mafia godfathers would play poker in a back room of a casino and skim off one-hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) once in a while, just enough for their card games.

4. The promises of hundreds of short-term and permanent jobs as well as millions of dollars (in bribes) that will be paid annually to the municipal governments that will host the proposed gambling casino reminds me of these wise words:

“If it sounds too good to be true then it probably is.”

5. The individuals, including local businessmen, who propose locating a gambling casino in Centre County state that there will be information posted in the casino directing gamblers struggling with gambling addiction to resources that can help them recover from their addiction. And that will work as well as the Surgeon General’s Warning on every pack of cigarettes does in encouraging chain smokers to stop smoking or seek help to recover from their nicotine addiction. If you believe that then I have a bridge that I can sell you at a very reasonable price. Anyone ever heard the expression about “Closing the barn door after the horse is out?”

6. A gambling casino is not a non-profit charitable organization. It is a for-profit business that has to take in so much money/profit (from losers) every day to pay all its expenses and keep the doors open for one more day. How much money do those proposing the new gambling casino expect to bring in per day? The community deserves to know the answer to this question.

7. A gambling casino with its rigged “games of (fat) chance” is the worst form of what I call “cannibalistic capitalism.” People are gaining “profits” and “winnings” through many other people’s losses in real time. That is cannibalistic. People are figuratively consuming other people. One group of people walk away from the gambling casino and go laughing all the way to the bank while another much larger group of people leave the casino with empty pockets.

8. Which members of the community will be lured into a gambling casino besides those teenage college students who will be attracted by both the allure of forbiddance and the challenge of gaining entry without getting caught? Have studies been done to determine what percentage of the patrons of a gambling casino will be the working poor and senior citizens on fixed incomes?

Neither have extra money that they can afford to lose, especially if they have dependents.

A gambling casino in Centre County would be a blot and a blight upon several nearby communities.

If any local people have the urge to throw away money, then they can go to Harrisburg and line the pockets to the casino owners there.

Merry Christmas.

And a Happy New Year.

<https://www.lockhaven.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/2021/12/objection-to-gambling-casino/>

Letter #25

12/26/2021

Letter: Save the Last Remaining Haven From Land-Based Casinos in Pennsylvania

It requires no courage to help the strong to prey upon the weak.

In 2017, Gov. Wolf and the Republican-controlled state legislature expanded gambling in the state of Pennsylvania. They did so despite the availability of information indicating that the U.S. gambling industry was already nearing saturation and that its long-term economic and social impacts are negative. Now, in 2021, Pennsylvania casinos are collecting more than \$4 billion per year in gambling revenue. With land-based casinos that can capture revenue from our neighboring states already available in nearly every populated area near Pennsylvania's borders, the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB) is currently weighing whether or not to extract additional revenue from the heartland of our state by licensing a new casino at the Nittany Mall.

While the high revenues from gambling receive lots of media attention, what is less well publicized is that the spread of land-based casinos in Pennsylvania has coincided with and aggravated the spread of gambling addiction in our state. Just as the push to distribute addictive opioid painkillers led to an epidemic of opioid abuse during the past decade, the push to maximize gambling revenue has led to increased gambling addiction. Currently, there are at least 51 gambling addiction recovery groups in the state of Pennsylvania. Predictably, most of these groups are located in close proximity to Pennsylvania's land-based casinos.

These addiction recovery groups are focused exclusively on helping individuals to recover from gambling addiction, and as such they eschew taking positions on any public policy matters – including whether or not any specific casino should be opened. Their commitment to these principles is so strong that these groups do not even advertise their own meetings, so you will never hear their side of the story unless you seek them out on your own.

Gambling disorder is a behavioral addiction diagnosis rather than a personal moral failing, and public policy to limit the availability and accessibility of gambling can play an important role in mitigating the worst effects of gambling addiction. Currently, Central Pennsylvania is the last remaining haven from land-based casinos in our state, and those who have recognized that they need to avoid the temptation of this form of gambling can live here while still remaining relatively close to their other relatives in Pennsylvania. If we do not keep land-based casinos out of our region, many of these people may find it necessary to leave our state altogether, or if they stay here they may end up being destroyed by addiction.

The PGCB has not yet voted on whether to approve or deny the license for the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall. You can make a difference and help to protect our community by e-mailing your feedback regarding the proposed casino to the PGCB at boardclerk@pa.gov. Please include the words "Nittany Mall Casino" in the subject of your e-mail to ensure that your feedback is associated with the appropriate casino licensing decision.

*Andrew Shaffer,
State College*

Letter #26

12/30/2021

CASINO QUESTIONS NEED ANSWERS

Young adults are approximately 6 times more likely to become addicted to gambling than the general adult population. This raises important questions that should be answered before the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB) decides whether or not to approve the license for the new Nittany Mall Casino that will be located just a 10-minute drive from the Penn State campus:

1. How much excess gambling addiction does the PGCB estimate will occur in Pennsylvania if a new casino is constructed at the Nittany Mall instead of somewhere else not located close to a large college campus?
2. How much tax revenue must the new casino generate for each additional Pennsylvania citizen that experiences gambling addiction for the commonwealth to fully compensate for the negative immediate and long-term effects of that gambling addiction? How much tax revenue must the casino generate per addicted citizen for the PGCB to approve and/or renew its license?
3. Does the PGCB follow any guidelines regarding how close a casino can be located to a college campus or to any other population center that is especially susceptible to gambling addiction? Why or why not?

If you would like the PGCB to address these or any other questions, or if you would like them to deny the license for the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall, please e-mail your feedback to boardclerk@pa.gov. Be sure to include "Nittany Mall Casino" in the title of your message to ensure that it is associated with the appropriate licensing decision.

Andrew Shaffer, State College

<https://www.centredaily.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article256905957.html>

Letter #27

1/10/2022

Would a Nittany Mall casino be worth it?

In 2017, Gov. Wolf expanded gambling in the state of Pennsylvania, citing the need for increased revenue. Since then, Pennsylvania gambling revenues have skyrocketed to record levels, and on Jan. 5 the CDT's front page story was titled "Wolf heads into last budget season with flush state coffers."

Nevertheless, the land-based casino market in Pennsylvania is already saturated and the opening of four additional land-based casinos during the past two years contributed only a tiny portion of the increased overall gambling revenues. The new land-based casinos primarily cannibalized business from their competitors and they significantly reduced the average revenue that is generated by Pennsylvania's casinos on a per-casino basis.

Interestingly, during this same time period, a rise in gambling addiction also began to emerge.

The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB) is considering whether to approve or deny the license for another new casino at the Nittany Mall. As the PGCB is weighing its decision, they should consider whether the small amount of additional tax revenue that a new land-based casino in State College might generate is worth the increase in gambling

addiction, that it would come at a time when even Gov. Wolf is saying that the state already has more than enough money on hand.

To provide feedback to the PGCB before they vote on the license for the Nittany Mall casino, please send your e-mail to boardclerk@pa.gov and include "Nittany Mall Casino" in the title of your message.

Owen Hughes, Centre Hall

<https://www.centredaily.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article257164207.html>

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: hgz <hgz@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2022 2:34 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.*

Dear Board:

As a long-time State College resident, I'm writing to express my strong dismay over the idea of the proposed Nittany Mall casino gaining approval. Any purported benefits that such an establishment would provide are VASTLY overruled by what would be an assured series of detrimental outcomes over the longer term. It's neither needed or wanted by the vast majority of area residents.

Please do the right thing and do NOT approve its licensure!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Hollis Zelinsky
State College, PA

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: John mason <john@jbnmechanical.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 15, 2022 8:54 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Casino

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This casino is a bad idea. It's bad because the demographics are good. Good for gambling losses. They did their homework.

Huge population of lower income workers in the outlying areas surrounding State College. The most vulnerable. Hardly virtuous for a town steeped in virtue.

John Mason
JBN Mechanical LLC
6906 West Whitehall Rd, Pennsylvania Furnace PA, 16865
(814) 240-2455
john@jbnmechanical.com

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Mary Carol Frier <marycarolfrier@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 9:38 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.*

I am strongly opposed to permitting a casino in the Nittany Mall, State College, PA. It serves no solically commendable purpose in our community. Instead, it encourages addiction, lawlessness and homelessness (when people start gambling their rent, mortgage and grocery money). This casino is a real potential home wrecker! Just what we need as we try to cope with COVID!

Please do not permit this casino in our community.

Instead, we should try to make our community stronger by using the Nittany Mall as a homeless shelter, a job training center and a mecca to encourage social interaction among our most vulnerable - the aged, the homeless, the disabled, and young children. This would be a good place to have a day care center for young children with a pre-K center.

I am demanding that the Commission do the right thing and deny the casino permit.

Mary Carol

--

Mary Carol Frier, CCA, CA
151 Neff Road, Centre Hall, PA 16828
814 777 5828

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Brenda Hameister <bhameister@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 11:36 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.

I do not support the proposed Nittany Mall Casino and advise denying the proposed casino's licensing application. The proposed casino will enable wealthy investors to increase their wealth and local legislators to raise money without raising taxes. However, the associated social costs are well-known and inevitable.

Problems are well-documented: families losing income, gambling addiction, increases in crime, less support for small businesses in the community. The only remaining question is whether the negatives will be "negligible" as forecast by casino developers or significant. In either case, local human service agencies will become responsible for helping those affected.

When we were raising our daughter in the 1980s, the Nittany Mall provided multiple opportunities to purchase clothing, shoes, household goods, gifts, and appliances. Today, the Mall offers minimal family shopping, but two stores that sell guns and soon-to-be a casino. Our society is becoming coarser and more violent and the casino will not help.

Grinols and Mustard (2004) studied county-level crime data from 1977 to 1996 in 3,165 counties in the US. They found a sharp increase in most crimes after the introduction of casinos. Their studies suggest that the effects of a casino on crime are low shortly after a casino opens, but grow over time. (Grinols and Mustard, 2004, Casinos, Crime, and Community Costs. University of IL and University of GA Working Paper)

On another issue, the developers' public estimates of jobs created were all in terms of "full-time equivalent" jobs. How many of these jobs will be part-time and without benefits? As you know, if a company considers 40 hours to be full-time and there are 2 employees working 20 hours/week, those 2 employees would be considered 1.0 FTE, but there would not be any actual full-time employees. How many of the proposed FTEs are full-time jobs with benefits? Will anyone be monitoring to see if the rosy estimates of job creation actually occur?

Our society tends to permit the operation of any endeavor that promises to increase jobs and profit, without seriously considering the negative effects on public health, safety or quality of life. We do not follow-up to see what positives and negatives occur, and typically blame negative outcomes on unexpected factors. I expect this to occur again with the Nittany Mall Casino.

Brenda Hameister
Centre County PA resident

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Donna Queeney <dsq2@psu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 8:13 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 Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board Members,

The proposal for a casino at Centre County's Nittany Mall has our family, along with many, many of our neighbors, aghast. It would be an attractive draw for Penn State students, low income residents from the more rural parts of the County and beyond, and potentially a law enforcement and crime problem. It would negatively affect real estate values in the area.

As for the claim that it would provide hundreds of jobs, Centre County (like most of the country) currently has a shortage of workers to fill existing positions.

College Township, which could benefit financially from the proposed casino, has other ways of generating income. Like its neighbor townships in the Centre Region, it has managed quite well financially through the years and can continue to do so.

Please, please deny the license application. It would be a grave mistake to make Mr. Lupert and a couple of his friends (more) wealthy at the expense of the rest of us.

Thank you for your consideration.

Donna S. Queeney, Ph.D.

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: T. Kerchinski <nittany1316@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 9:06 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] State College Casino permit

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 use this email as my formal request to deny a casino permit for any location in State College, PA. The Nittany Mall location especially, given that it is located so closely to Penn State University's main campus as well as my home in Houserville (approximately 1 mile from the Nittany Mall location). Casinos are such a regressive tax on the poor and uneducated.... as someone once put it " a tax on the mathematically challenged." If casinos were a truly "gambling" establishment, then the odds should be truly even.... 50/50. But as the gaming commission knows, it is NOT. The casino is ALWAYS going to win in the long run. Educated people know this and "gamble" as a source of entertainment..... knowing that their money is "spent on entertainment and has no other value." The undereducated, mathematically challenged folks who gamble at these casinos are usually tricked into a false sense of hope - that if they keep trying, they will eventually hit the jackpot! Politicians who support such gambling establishments also know that they can extract this regressive "tax" from the poorest of their constituents without calling it a tax increase. Shame on them.

Please deny this permit. We have enough of these establishments in PA already. Please don't poison our "Happy Valley" community, known for its great educational institution, with such a known contributor to addiction and crime issues.

Thanks for listening,
Tim Kerchinski

Sent from [Outlook](#)

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: DAWN MAGUIRE <dawnmaguire@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 9:39 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Opposed to Casino in the 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.

Dear Members of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board,

I am writing to share my strong opposition to the proposed casino in the Nittany Mall in State College, PA. Our family of five has lived in State College, PA for 16 1/2 years. We love many things about our community, but one of the things that we are most proud of is the generosity and caring of neighbor to neighbor. Many of the most vulnerable in our community, those working paycheck-to-paycheck trying to make ends meet, will only suffer with the addition of a casino in our town. I am sure many other writers have shared the abundance of the research confirming that lower-income families and children are negatively impacted when casinos come to a community. It is a fact that addiction goes up, poverty is not improved, crime is impacted, and property values go down.

The types of jobs a casino brings are not the jobs that we want. The "adult entertainment" of a casino is not the kind of entertainment that we want. State College, PA has an abundance of sports events, theatrical performances, shows, talks, etc. that are wonderful "adult entertainment". We also have our fair share of bars for "adult entertainment".

Surely, smart planners and the community can work together to find a better use for the Nittany Mall space that will be welcomed by and benefit the entire community. A casino is NOT it.

Dawn Maguire (she/her)
814-571-3789 (c)

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Camille Payne <cbp22@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 10:17 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] 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.

I am writing to you about the proposed mini-casino at the Nittany Mall in State College.

I am very much against this proposal. Having spent almost 4 years working in a casino in Reno, Nevada, I saw first hand what a gambling addiction can do to people. I watched grown men and women cry as they foolishly lost their rent money or food money in hopes of winning big. I watched as pimps paraded their women past gamblers. I watched as drunken gamblers passed out or threw up in front of other patrons. I watched as grown men, who JUST KNEW that the giant slot machine was ready to hit and couldn't leave it, go behind the machine and urinate on it. I watched 2 women get into a knock-drown brawl over a slot machine. I saw drug deals. I saw the worst of humanity and don't want that in my community.

Please, please deny the casino's license application. There have to be better uses for that space than a casino that brings out the worst in people and causes nothing but heartache for the average person. Yes, the average middle and lower income people are the ones who patronize these places. People who have money know how to keep it, but those poor joes who are struggling are always taking the risk in hopes of hitting that elusive jackpot.

Please deny the casino's license.

Camille Payne
State College, PA

Sent from my iPhone

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Chris Gamrat <gamrat.chris@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 10:38 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Nittany Mall Casino Proposal

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 Commissioners,

I have some serious concerns about the proposal for the small casino to be opened in the Nittany Mall. While I believe that there might be economic benefits, I have concerns about safety and infrastructure congestion. Germane to both, I'm concerned about traffic from university students traveling to the casino. This seems like a possible attractive space for students that are outside of the normal walkable options for most students in the State College area. It is always a concern for young drivers who might be unfamiliar with that part of town and have access to alcohol. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Chris Gamrat
2642 Penbrook Ln, State College, PA 16801

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Shelow, Stephen G <sps8@psu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 1:18 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Gaming License for 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.*

Greetings. I am submitting this email to voice my strong support for the mini-casino license at the former Macy's in the Nittany Mall outside of State College to be approved.

I sincerely appreciate you taking valuable input from the citizens.

Thank you,

Steve Shelow
Resident of Ferguson Township, Centre County

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Barbara Gross <barbarakulp29@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 3:39 PM
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.

Please deny the license for gaming at the Nittany Mall. We would like to see family oriented programs and venues at the Mall. I go to the Senior Center and my granddaughter goes to a dance academy there. There is a health club and a number of small shops. Please allow family oriented programs and businesses at the Mall which will enhance family life and the community.

Barbara and Don Gross
355 Marylyn Ave. L 205
State College, PA. 16801
(Centre. County)

Barbara and Don Gross

Sent from my iPad

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Dana Voigt <danavoigt@ymail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 6:48 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Nittany mall casino

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I do not want to see a casino come in. This is the last decent side of town where you don't have to be reminded constantly of Penn state students ruling the roost. We have a nice little chunk of land with trees, it's still small town to us. It isn't right to give in to money and absolutely destroy the majority of RESIDENTS (we were here first.) feelings of safety and HOME.

Don't be weak and actually do what's right for the people who live and thrive here. They'll find somewhere else.

Sent from my iPhone

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Williams, Nancy <niw1@psu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 9:33 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.*

To whom it may concern,

I write as a state college resident of 25 years who is deeply concerned about the idea of a casino being built in the mall area. I realize that there would be the potential for revenue for the area, however, the risks are not worth these profits. Bringing gambling to our small town will change our town in negative ways, and will lead to lower income residents who patronize the establishment losing money/savings, and perhaps even experiencing gambling addiction. I am against the idea of gambling being so close to our small idyllic town, as I believe it will attract crime and drugs, and associated criminals and criminal activity. Please reconsider this plan.

Nancy Williams

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Ellyn Exley <ellynexley@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 11:07 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] No casino in State College

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Gaming Control Board;

State College is a town built upon families and academics. This is not the place for a casino!!! The university and the community will suffer in the long term.

As residents of State College, we beg you: do not put a casino in our town.

Thank you.
The Exley-Dvorkin Families

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Kay Shirk <kays816@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 11:56 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Proposed casino at Nittany Mall 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 the Director of Hearings and Appeals:

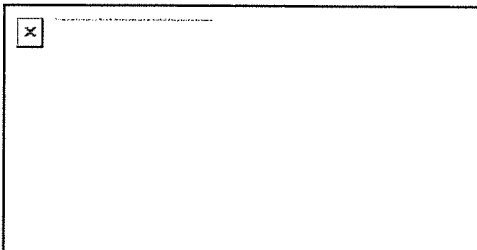
Please do NOT allow a casino to be put in the Nittany Mall. As long-time residents of State College who also live within a mile of the Nittany Mall, we are very worried about the increase in DUI's and additional heavy traffic on Rt. 26, one of the main roads to the Mall (and to our home).

With 47,000+ Penn State students residing *in and around* State College, we already have many problems with drunk driving and excessive partying. A casino so close to a college town can only encourage young people to drink even more excessively and gamble. And sadly, many of these students already struggle with debts just paying for their tuition. Why make it even easier for them to sink further into debt or develop an addiction to gambling and/or alcohol?

Although State College appears "on the surface" to be an affluent community, many areas surrounding it include lower-income people who do not need the nearby temptation of a casino to drive them further into debt. Realistically, the odds of "making it big" at a casino are next to nil.

Having a casino close to one's home lowers the property value of the home. In addition, crime rates also increase near casinos. That is a large worry for those of us who have already seen an increase in crime within the past decade in the State College area.

To further underscore our opposition to the casino at the Nittany Mall, please refer to this article:
<https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2014/08/a-good-way-to-wreck-a-local-economy-build-casinos/375691/>



A Good Way to Wreck a Local Economy: Build Casinos - The Atlantic

Baltimore is a troubled city, as you know from *The Wire*. Like many troubled cities, Baltimore has turned to casino gambling as its solution. On August 26, a new Caesar's casino will open on the ...

[View Article](https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2014/08/a-good-way-to-wreck-a-local-economy-build-casinos/375691/)

Please vote NO on allowing a casino to be put into the Nittany Mall.

Kathryn and Vaughn Shirk
State College, PA

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Lizzie Gordon <lgo16823@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:22 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] No 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 PGCB Commissioners:

Please find my documented disapproval of placing a casino in the Nittany Mall.

I am married and have a young son - we live, work, and attend school here in Centre County, and have for the past 17 years.

My note comes from a place of personal observation. My mother struggles severely with a gambling addiction and fights the battle every day. She finds herself facing divorce at age 60 and has all but drained her life's savings. Moreover she is not alone in this plight. As a worker in the financial sector I have seen the impact on many many other families and individuals as well. It is bad enough that there are "skills" machines at nearly every location you fuel your vehicle. Casinos are horribly addictive.

Additionally, being the home of Penn State our town is where many young people move away from their families for the first time and start their adulthood. This is a vulnerable age when people are finding themselves and declaring their independence; they are strongly subject to peer pressure. Again, from first hand experience, as a two time Penn State grad, I understand how the impact of financial decisions made in this part of ones life can have a lasting effect. Let's not insert a spending trap into the center of our town. Casinos by nature often lead to a reduced inhibitions, we have enough of that with the drinking culture that exists here.

Me and my family are firmly against opening a casino in State College. I am available for additional comment by phone or email.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth A. Gordon
814-203-0340
169 Deitrich Rd.
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Sent from my iPhone

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Sharon Jones <sharon2024@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:14 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] No 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.*

As a resident of College Township I am asking you to not put a casino in the mall. This town could benefit from many things but a casino is not one of them. I have personally seen the life of my cousin destroyed after a casino went in near his home and he became addicted. It didn't stop with gambling, it was drugs and stealing from his family members. He is now homeless and his family is in ruins. Please keep a casino out of Happy Valley.

Thank you,

Sharon Jones

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Michelle Campos <michelle.u.campos@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:10 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Against the 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 was shocked to learn that the gaming commission is considering permitting a casino in the Nittany Mall in State College. A casino is the last thing this town needs. Casinos are not aimed at improving the quality of life of residents, they are not family friendly, and they are correlated with increased social problems. State College is a small town that would be negatively impacted in multiple ways by this new casino. Incidentally, I was extremely disappointed to learn that this passed the College Township board unanimously, where the voting members only asked mundane questions about the parking lot and landscaping plans, but ignored the pressing issues this would involve. For one, there is a county senior center located in the mall, and seniors are an at-risk population for getting sucked into casino gambling exploitation. In addition, the mall is used during the winter months by community members to safely get indoor exercise. There was very little township outreach to the public about this proposal or the meeting, and zero transparency about the proposal or process.

In short, I strongly register my opposition to this proposed casino which would benefit the owners but at a huge, negative cost to the community. Let the investors build a casino in **their** hometowns, not ours.

Sincerely,
Michelle Campos

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Shelly Hershey <shellyrhershey@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:54 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Nittany Mall Casino: 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.

Dear PA Gaming Control Board Commissioners,

I am writing as a concerned citizen as the timeline for approving or denying a casino's license application draws closer. I am not in favor of an approval vote for this application. Instead of a casino, why not add some incentive to bring good, honest, positive businesses to the area. This community does not need a gambling facility. No community does. Why not use the Nittany Mall space to promote family activity or attract businesses (not casinos!) to rent store space again? Examples would be indoor mini golf, toddler play areas, kid's museums, a food court, something like a Chuck E. Cheese or Build A Bear. Please consider the future generations before going through with the Casino application at the Nittany Mall. We can do better!

Thank you for your consideration,
Shelly Hershey

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Raymond Bilger <rabilger@seekintegrity.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 8:25 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Bally's Casino at the Nittany Mall 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:

I, for one, am tired of seeing outside interests constantly haranguing the citizens of Centre County with their letters to the editor opposing the approval of Bally's casino. I and my family will be neighbors of the casino and we strongly support the project, believing it to be a positive force for change in a sadly dying mall. The casino would bring back businesses which would provide badly needed services to the area's residents and make the mall a thriving location once again. This end of town has seen businesses pulled from the area and moved to the other side of town and we need this casino to serve as a business magnet for the mall. It would also provide a source for entertainment and dining which is sadly lacking; a source of entertainment, especially for the older citizens of our region, many of whom live in this section of town. A great many older citizens use the mall as a place to exercise and socialize in all seasons, but it has been used most effectively for this purpose during the pandemic. Please do the REAL citizens of this area a favor and approve Bally's casino.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ray Bilger

Ray Bilger
Senior Intelligence Operations Specialist
rabilger@seekintegrity.com
814-359-9581

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Houtz, Cristina M <cmh98@psu.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 12:55 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.*

Please consider denying the request for a casino in State College. That would not be an asset for this community. Our adults don't need it; our college students don't need that intro to gambling or an additional distraction.

Please vote no.

Cristina M. Houtz (*she, her*)

Administrative Coordinator and Assistant to the Senior Director, Development and Alumni Relations

Smeal College of Business

209J Business Building

University Park, PA 16802

W: 814.863.4955 C: 949.291.0515 E: cmh98@psu.edu

www.smeal.psu.edu

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Peggy Myers <peggymp1950@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 10:47 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Casino at the Nittany Mall

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To Whomever it may Concern,

We want to express our opposition to the proposed casino in the Nittany Mall in State College. Uncontrolled gambling has caused tremendous heartache in too many families. Too often, it's the folks who can least afford it who do it.

With Penn State University just a few miles away, students would likely also be gambling and may start lifelong gambling addictions. Too many of these students would lack judgement as to when to stop before losing too much money.

We would be most grateful NOT to have a casino at the Nittany Mall! There are much better ways to raise taxes and supply jobs for College Township.

Don and Peggy Myers

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Bob Bauer <rjbauer@earthlink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 3:26 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Re: casino

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We do not need a casino in the Nittany Mall.

It will cause Problems.

Don't let it happen.

Robert J. Bauer

PSP Retired

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Bob Bauer <rjbauer@earthlink.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:47 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External]

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NO CASINO AT THE NITTY MALL.

Robert J. Bauer

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Bob Bauer <rjbauer@earthlink.net>
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2022 10:03 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Re:

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NO CASINO AT THE NITTY MALL.

Robert J. Bauer

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Bob Bauer <rjbauer@earthlink.net>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:43 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.

There is absolutely no need for a casino at the Nittany Mall.

Bobby Jay

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Bob Bauer <rjbauer@earthlink.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 11:07 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 keep the Nittany Mall SAFE.

Do not put a casino in there.

It is not needed in any way shape or form.

Robert J. Bauer

Retired State Trooper

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Bob Bauer <rjbauer@earthlink.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2022 9:41 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Re:

***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.*

Do not put a casino in there.

It is not needed in any way shape or form.

Robert J. Bauer

PSP Retired