From: horacio perezblanco <horneop@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 12:00 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.

## To the Pennsylvania Gaming Commission,

The well-reasoned projections of Mr. Andrew Shaffer indicate that the proposed casino will negatively impact the financial outlook of the Centre region. Hence, I would like to register my opposition to this casino.

In addition to the negative financial outlook of this ill-conceived venture, there are other concerning aspects. A casino does not favor educational or other desirable features which distinguish this community. The quality of living conditions can hardly be said to be improved by this proposal. Hence, I would like to register my strong opposition to this establishment.

Respectfully,

Horacio Perez-Blanco

Professor Emeritus, Mechanical Engineering, Penn State

From:

Marie Hamilton <gmfhamilton@gmail.com>

Sent:

Thursday, September 30, 2021 12:14 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.

There is nothing wholesome or wise about having a casino . Please do not put a casino to temp my grandchildren and friends. Please! Marie Hamilton, Founder, CentrePeace.

From:

Hannah Lysczek <hannah.lysczek@gmail.com>

Sent:

Thursday, September 30, 2021 11:33 PM

To:

GB, Board Clerk

Subject:

[External] NO 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 am a lifetime resident of Centre County, and currently live about 8 minutes from the Nittany Mall in State College PA. Every day for work, shopping, etc. we will have to drive past the casino. I do not think it fits in well with the other businesses and residents in that area, and that it will negatively affect the other properties and lives of the people who live here. We see that side of town as the "family friendly" end of town, especially as other businesses with families in mind have set up business in the mall such as a fencing club, a pet shop, bounce house fun playzone, dance studios, and Rural King. Because casinos are known to weaken nearby property values and hurt surrounding businesses, this is a big concern to me and so I oppose the casino.

Even more importantly casinos extract money from the local community, especially at the expense of problem gamblers. I care very much about the people who live in my community and I'm not in favor of putting a casino into close proximity to them.

Please choose the quality of our community over the tax trade off and do not license this cat 4 casino.

Thank you for your time, Hannah Lysczek

From: +
Sent: F

+1 814-234-0643 < +18142340643 > Friday, October 1, 2021 9:34 AM

To:

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

Subject:

[External] Voice Mail (56 seconds)

Attachments:

audio.mp3

**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 name is Grace Lang and State College PA 8142340643. I am a 90 years old and I am calling to object to the proposed casino for the Nittany Mall. I can't think of a worse use in a college town for any kind of casino. It I have family members who have \*\*\* \*\*\*\* Benedict to gambling. I know its effects on the family. It's a terrible idea and I want to let I'm one of the voices who object. Thanks very much. Grace Lang I am a voter. Goodbye.

You received a voice mail from + 18142340643.

Thank you for using Transcription! If you don't see a transcript above, it's because the audio quality was not clear enough to transcribe.

Set Up Voice Mail

| From: | Gabrielle < gabrielle.s1122@gmail.com> |
|-------|--|
| Sent: | Friday, October 1, 2021 1:00 PM        |

**To:** GB, Board Clerk

Subject: [External] Nittany Mall Casino | SC Gaming OpCo. LLC Cat 4 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 have been a Centre County resident since 2016 and have lived in Ferguson, Patton, and Harris townships (currently a Harris resident).

I'm writing to ask to please push back against the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall. Gambling availability contributes to a suite of problems, including negative impacts on the individual and community level in terms of finances, health, and relationships. Underprivileged groups, like the elderly and the poor, are more likely to be preyed upon by the addictive model of modern gambling technologies. And gamblers with gambling addiction are also likely to suffer from mental health disorders and substance abuse disorders.

Is preying on these populations the best solution to inject revenue into our local economy? Is there ever a justification to risk complicating the existing issues that the impoverished, homeless, addiction-prone, and mentally unwell people in our community already suffer from?

Will adding a casino to an area that holds strongly to small-town roots and local ties benefit us in the end? Or will it just sacrifice another piece of what makes us Happy Valley--ultimately for quick cash (that could be made elsewhere) and another source of health and mental issues for students, residents, and visitors alike to indulge in?

I hope you'll consider my comments. I don't believe a casino is needed to support our economy--and if it were the only solution, I'd rather the economy suffer the potential loss than the very real impact of gambling availability on local populations. The only people who will get rich quick--or make any real money--on a casino are the people running it.

The house always wins.

Thank you,

Gabrielle Stewart

From:

Paula Hesse <hesse.paula@gmail.com>

Sent:

Friday, October 1, 2021 1:58 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.

The proposed casino at Nittany Mall is a get rich scheme for the developers and will negatively impact residents of Central Pennsylvania on many fronts for years to come. I am unalterably opposed to it.

Paula Hesse State College

From:

Jancie Benninghoff <racengolden@icloud.com>

Sent:

Friday, October 1, 2021 5:45 PM

To: Subject: GB, Board Clerk [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.

We are so very happy that a casino is coming to our area. Those who are complaining don't seem to get out very much. If you don't drink you don't have to go to a bar. People are gambling on line 24/7. We look forward to this new entertainment attraction.

Sent from my iPad

From: Helen Kamens-Horton <helenkamens@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 7:04 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 concerned State College resident, I wanted to strongly urge you to vote NO on the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall in College Township. There is strong research that shows that any short-term economic benefits of casinos are substantially outweighed by its longer-term economic and social costs. As example, a report from the Institute for American Values, an independent and non-partisan think tank, concluded that the new local and regional casinos spreading across the country drain wealth from communities, weaken nearby businesses, hurt property values, and reduce civic participation, family stability, and other forms of social capital that are at the heart of a successful community.

Further, as an addiction researcher myself, I see the first hand consequence of individuals who fall prey to gambling addictions. Our youth, including the students at nearby Penn State, are at heightened risk to become addicted to gambling due to their still developing brains.

I urge you to vote NO on this proposal.

Thank you

Helen Kamens-Horton 627 Royal Circle State College, PA 16801

From:

Alison Amaismeier <alison@amaismeier.com>

Sent:

Friday, October 1, 2021 8:48 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.

As a 12-year resident of State College, the development of a casino at the Nittany Mall is a most unwelcome prospect. Are there any benefits from promoting gambling in a community? I can only think of negative impacts: excessive spending with no return on investment for the gambler, gambling addiction, increased debt and financial strain in families, etc. Please do not move this project forward and provide a trap for misguided people who think that gambling will be fun or provide them with quick and easy financial resources.

After a year and a half of emotional, financial, and relational hardship due to COVID the last thing our community needs is a casino. Instead, we need emotional support resources, help getting children caught up in school, unemployment aid, and outdoor recreational facilities. Why not focus on developing these types of facilities in the area instead of something that will only bring about disappointment and hardship?

Alison Amaismeier

From:

Connie Puckert <cjpuckett@comcast.net>

Sent:

Friday, October 1, 2021 9:21 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 would like to express my concerns in regards to the proposed plan to bring a casino into our area. I feel this is not the type of establishment that would benefit our county. It might bring in some additional jobs initially but would this be a sustainable venture. I also fear that we might have increased drug and drinking issues as well as increased crime and prostitution.

I respectfully request that this casino doesn't come to our area.

Connie Puckett 223 Sycamore Drive State College,PA 16801

Sent from my iPhone

From: Witherite, Eleanor Rae <erw130@psu.edu>

Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 11:27 PM

To: GB, Board Clerk

**Subject**: [External] Not any 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 oppose allowing a casino to open in State College. We have enough issues with students and alcohol. We don't need to add gambling. The proposed casino would be small and not draw from outside the county. It would end up hurting the county.

Get Outlook for Android

From: Oakes, Janice F <jfo1@psu.edu>
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 7:44 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.

As 35 year citizens of Centre County and members of Christ Community Church located less than a mile from the proposed site for a gambling casino, we are writing to speak out against the establishment of said casino. This is not the type of business our community needs and will only be a catalyst to increase the misery index for families located in its vicinity. Gambling addiction and the pain and suffering experienced by family members of someone addicted to gambling addiction is real and devastating. We need more uplifting and wholesome businesses in our community not ones that end up causing pain and suffering. Please tell those who are deciding whether or not to approve licensing this proposed casino to vote no. This is a decent community, please help us to keep it that way. Thank you in advance for passing our sentiments on to the decision making board. Sincerely, Janice and Robert Oakes. 1635 North Cherry Hill Road, State College, PA 16803.

Get Outlook for Android

From: Elizabeth Stephenson <e.stephenson@gotmoxie.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 9:04 AM

To: GB, Board Clerk

**Subject:** [External] "SC Gaming OpCo. LLC Cat 4 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 strongly opposed to the plan for a casino in the Nittany Mall.

As a business owner, I am aware of the struggle for employers to find employees here! We have businesses with limited hours and restaurants with closed dining rooms now, not because of COVID but for lack of employees. How is a casino bringing in jobs going to help that situation? What we need is something that will help our current businesses be able to afford a higher wage to attract quality employees.

As a community member with a family, I am very concerned about what this casino will do to the peace and safety we've always enjoyed here. If the visitors are most likely to be transient day trippers who are purely looking to gamble and not looking for a destination experience, do you honestly think they'll be spending money in our community? Who benefits from the money generated by this casino? Certainly not the community. What kind of element do you think will be attracted? I fear an increase in drug related incidents and crime!

I DO NOT WANT THIS CASINO IN OUR TOWN!

Ever,

Ε

Elizabeth G. Stephenson Owner



814-234-7833 e.stephenson@gotmoxie.com customstuff@comcast.net www.customstuff.net

From:

becky houts <houserville58@yahoo.com>

Sent:

Saturday, October 2, 2021 7:41 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.

#### Sent from my iPhone

I have lived here near the Mall all my life. In fact, our family goes back 6 generations in State Cillege area.

I love this area as do many who have flocked to Happy Valley. A casino will not be an asset. It will not bring money into our community. It will only open the door for more drugs and crime. The community will suffer. Has no one learned a lesson from Atlantic City?

Rebecca Houts

From:

Bridget Hall <mbha80@hotmail.com>

Sent:

Monday, October 4, 2021 8:23 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. Greetings!

Sending this to show my support for the Nittany Mall Casino. As a full-time Penn State employee and borough homeowner I am looking forward to what it will bring to the community. And personally, looking forward to something fun to do for those over 25 that don't care to go downtown.

Best,

Bridget Hall 1113 Centre Ln State College, PA 16801

From:

wfillmann@verizon.net

Sent:

Monday, October 4, 2021 10:19 AM

To:

GB, Board Clerk

Subject:

[External] Nittany Mall Casino - Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board

**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.

10/4/21

PA Gaming Control Board RE: Nittany Mall Casino

To Whom it may concern,

I am against having a gambling casino in my town of State College.

I know what gambling is about. I've seen how it can alter unfavorably any family culture that surrounds it. Having grown up in a family of thoroughbred horse owners, breeders, trainers, and jockeys, I've witnessed how it rewards those with the resources, mental skills, and self-discipline it takes to walk away with large sums of cash. I've also witnessed how it decimates the lives of the rest who have not those things.

Likewise, a gambling casino in our town will tempt too many average Penn State college students bereft of those skills, disciplines, and resources. It will turn them from students into gambling addicts as they speed the short path up Rt. 26 from campus to the Nittany Mall. It will ruin the work ethic our town depends on as it preys upon the weak everywhere else. And all along the route will soon pop-up things like what I saw the gambling casinos of Tampa Bay Florida cause to pop up: pawn shops, bail bonders, and strip joints. Every community in State College that cares anything about its safety will then have to gate itself the way those communities in Florida had to gate themselves.

I do not oppose any individual in their right mind who wishes to place a friendly wager. But that's not what we're talking about. A casino in our town would be like running a 24-hour incinerator next to a gas station. Its effects will be too pervasive, deeply damaging, chronically enduring, and completely irreversible. I know. I've seen it happen elsewhere.

Please, do not allow a gambling casino to set up shop in our fine community of State College Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Walt Fillmann State College, PA

From:

mapahartle <mapahartle@comcast.net>

Sent:

Tuesday, October 5, 2021 11:22 AM

To:

GB, Board Clerk

Subject:

[External] Casino at 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.

PGCB,

I am writing in opposition to the casino proposed for the Nittany Mall in Centre County. A casino will have adverse effects on the community and the student population as it will do much more harm than good over the long-term. It has the great potential to empower addictions that weaken or destroy families. This type of business is not the right fit for the mall setting or for Happy Valley.

Patti Hartle Port Matilda, PA 16870 Zachary Simmons
114 Elm Rd.
Pennsylvania Furnace, PA 16865 (Centre County)

Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board P.O. Box 69060 Harrisburg, PA 17106-9060

October 6, 2021

Dear Director O'Toole, Chairperson Smyler, and Commissioners:

Please do not approve the license for the proposed Nittany Mall Casino in State College. Despite the persuasive advocacy of businesspeople from outside our community who stand to gain tremendously at our community's expense, we the people here in the State College area do not want a casino in our town and humbly ask the PGCB to listen to our earnest opposition to this proposal and to step in to prevent it.

Proponents of this casino claim that it will bring jobs, tourism, and tax revenues to State College, and therefore will be good for our local economy. Reality, judging from the experience of communities like ours who have tried this—is the opposite. This casino would draw primarily Centre County residents and would therefore drain money out of our local economy, profiting an outside company while cutting the legs out from under local small businesses that are already struggling amid the realities of post-pandemic life.

Proponents of this casino claim that it is a desirable form of entertainment that would provide harmless fun for our area. The reality is that:

- This casino would gain its profits primarily at the expense of those in State College who can afford it the least, increasing the economic inequality gap in our area by holding out the false hope of fast wealth to people who can't afford what they will certainly lose.
- Thousands of Penn State students in their formative years would now have a convenient opportunity to experience the addictive high of casino life, teeing up another generation for problem gambling and a lifetime of financial hardship and personal tragedy.
- Children in Centre County like mine (I have five young kids) would grow up with the casino's marketing messages all around town teaching them that looking for wealth from slot machines is normal, shaping their imaginations and expectations about life and making them more susceptible to problem gambling later in life.

In the course of my work I am responsible to help and give counsel to people who are poor and struggling to build a financial secure and personally independent life. Just recently I was talking with a young man recently released from prison who is doing an amazing job rebuilding his life after his release. But even he was describing to me his habit of putting part of every paycheck towards the "skill games" at a nearby convenience store. He currently lives in Altoona but used to live in State

College and is here from time to time. Imagine how destructive the draw of this casino could be for him—offering him the prospect of quick money, but much more likely draining his fragile economic means and removing yet another barrier for him to sliding back into the life of addiction and crime he's trying to escape. He is just one example of the thousands of Centre County's most vulnerable whose lives could be seriously harmed if this casino opens.

Please don't listen to the spin that the business interests are putting on this casino project, trying to make it seem like a good thing for our community. I'm sure you will hear from many who think the casino would be a harmless and fun addition of local color or have been wrongly persuaded that it will be good for the local economy. Please know that I and many others like me in Centre County do not agree. We are profoundly concerned because the opening of this casino would be a turning point in our community with severe economic and community consequences for generations. Let's stop these problems before they start. Please do not vote to approve the Nittany Mall Casino license.

Earnestly,

Zachary Simmons

Centre County resident

From:

Linda Burns < lburns56@me.com>

Sent:

Wednesday, October 6, 2021 3:24 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 folks,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen. I live in Piney Ridge. I grew up here, married here, left and then returned here after the death of my husband in 1988. I raised two daughters here. These being noted, I have seen a lot of changes to State College and it's surrounding areas. Not all of them very wise moves, in my opinion. However, I would like to voice my opinion on a subject that I feel would not be a good move for our community.

The proposed casino in the Nittany Mall may sound like a good idea at first, but after much thought and looking at numerous points of view, I have made some conclusions.

- 1). Almost every business in, out, and around the area have Help Wanted signs in the window and it is getting worse. If we can't get people to want to get back to work, how do you expect the casino to get enough employees? Will they be brought in? If so, defeats the concept that it will bring new jobs to the area. Will they need places to live etc., yes. Good for State College-perhaps.
- 2). This casino will have to draw a lot of people to maintain the upkeep where will these hoards of people on a daily/weekly basis come from? I doubt that the nearest cities like Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh etc. are going to come here very often just to gamble when there are much closer casinos for them to patronize. Also ask, will people want to bring their families to the Mall to go shopping at Gages, the shoe store, clothing with the casino there? I know I wouldn't.
- 3). Also, I believe that most casinos over time wind up bringing in those poor souls who are addicted to gambling, alcoholics, and homelessness. We also do not need to encourage gambling in a town that supports so many college students.
  - 4). Along with Casinos come more need for police as crime goes up. Drugs, theft etc.. Do we really need this?

I could go on, but I believe that these are the top reasons I feel are good reasons NOT to let a casino come to the State College, Nittany Mall area.

I am not in support of this coming to our town.

Sincerely, Linda Burns 814-237-3666

From:

Joseph Stach <joseph@thestachs.com>

Sent:

Thursday, October 7, 2021 8:39 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.

Joseph Stach < joseph@thestachs.com > Nittany Mall Casino

I am writing in strong support of the granting of a license to Nittany Mall Casino, its operators and owners. The casino will provide gaming experiences to the north central region of Pennsylvania that residents and visitors that do not currently have available to them. It will also provide jobs and attract more businesses to the region in addition to an increase in local and state tax revenues.

Joseph Stach 418 Hubler Road State College, PA 16801

Dear Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board,

From:

Sent:

Subject:

To:

| As a 30-year resident of Centre Co., I strongly feel that a casino is totally out of character for our county. The recreational and tourism sector of our economy is welcome, and is based around sports, nature, arts, and scholarship activities. A casino does not fit this profile. Furthermore, much of the tourism to our area comes from the parts of PA that have a higher population density. Those areas have casinos closer. |
|---|
| Please deny the application for a casino in Centre Co. PA.  |
| Thank you, Shelby Fleischer shelby.fleischer@gmail.com  |
|   |
|   |
|   |
|   |

Shelby Fleischer <shelby.fleischer@gmail.com>

**ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To

I am writing to ask that you deny the application for a license for a casino at the Nittany Mall in Centre Co., PA.

Thursday, October 7, 2021 10:31 AM

[External] Nittany Mall Casino

report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA\_SPAM@pa.gov.

GB, Board Clerk

From: Mariah Chuprinski <mchuprinski@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 7, 2021 2:55 PM

To: GB, Board Clerk

**Subject:** [External] SC Gaming OpCo. LLC Cat 4 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 was a resident of State College borough for six years and am currently a resident of Bellefonte. I am against the creation of a casino at the Nittany Mall. Thank you!

Mariah Chuprinski

--

Mariah Chuprinski <u>mchuprinski@gmail.com</u> (570) 916-9099

From:

JOSEPH MOGUS <mojojo66@comcast.net>

Sent:

Thursday, October 7, 2021 3:50 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.

All in for a casino at the nittany mall ---Retired now living 5 miles from the Mall I would love it!
Build it! ---Its a winner!
Joe Mogus ---Pleasant Gap ---5 miles away

PS/ this area needs the Jobs

From:

Amy Rothrock <amy.rothrock@hotmail.com>

Sent:

Thursday, October 7, 2021 4:35 PM

To:

GB, Board Clerk; board-clerk@pa.gov

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 PA Gaming Commision,

I am writing to let you know that as 19-year residents of State College, my husband and I strongly oppose the casino that is planned for Nittany Mall. State College has been a wonderful place to raise our family, and we hope that the atmosphere in this lovely town will remain what it has always been--great for families, kids and individuals of all types who wish to enjoy all that State College and central PA have to offer.

There is no way that gambling fits into this picture. It will bring down the tone and atmosphere of our town, and also cause devastation to the finances of those few who will inevitably become addicted, especially vulnerable college students. A casino will not be an asset to our area, but a drawback. Please do not permit this to happen.

Thank you,

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

From:

Nadine Swanson < vetteking 1993@yahoo.com>

Sent:

Thursday, October 7, 2021 7:09 PM

To:

GB, Board Clerk

Subject:

[External] Prevent 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 stop the casino from coming to Centre County, PA. Unless it brings in large numbers of tourists, the casino will take millions out of our community to pay taxes and Bally's investors. Why would people travel to State College when there are larger casinos in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia? Please keep the casino out of State College, PA.

Sincerely,

Nadine Swanson

From:

Zion Community Church <zioncommunitychurch@gmail.com>

Sent:

Friday, October 8, 2021 8:49 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 would like you to know that I am highly against having a casino located at the Nittany Mall, State College, PA. In the economic hard times that we are living, we do not need anything that would help people go further into debt. Also, it could possibly attract criminals to our area, and we don't need more of that.

Thank you!

Secretary
Zion Community Church
3261 Zion Road
Bellefonte, PA 16823
814-383-4161
zioncommunitychurch@gmail.com

From: Thomas Smith <tlsccs@bestevent.com>
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 10:24 AM

**To:** GB, Board Clerk

**Subject:** [External] Nittany Mall Casino, 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.

#### 10/08

A casino in Centre County will <u>not</u> be used by persons from major metropolitan areas (Harrisburg, Lancaster, Pittsburgh, etc.) who can avoid the inevitable losses. It will be frequented only by: A) Penn State students - who should not be wasting their parents' money - and B) lower-income Centre County residents trying to hit an impossible jackpot, just like they already dream of doing with Pennsylvania's lotteries.

Centre County is the wrong place for a casino.

#### Thomas L Smith

---

Thomas L Smith 500 E Marylyn Ave J-154 State College PA 16801-6227

Phone: 814-238-1184

Email: <u>tlsccs@bestevent.com</u>

From: Holly Fritchman <holly.fritchman@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 10:58 AM

**To:** GB, Board Clerk **Cc:** Kerry Benninghoff

**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, my husband and I request that gaming license is not approved for the proposed Nittany Mall casino. Knowing from other areas that have casinos, the neighborhoods do not get better, they get much worse. The gambling atmosphere brings in drugs, prostitution, and not to mention area people getting hooked on gambling and destroying families. Happy Valley, is just that, happy, because there is no Casino. If people want to go to casino, there are plenty of bus tours in our area to take them to the Harrisburg, New Jersey, and New York casinos.

Please don't make it all about money, and don't approve this license, there is enough evil in the country already.

Thank you. Holly and Tom Fritchman

Sent from my iPhone

From: Andrew Shaffer <andrewshaffer148@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 2:17 PM

To: GB, Board Clerk

Subject: [External] 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,

I have previously submitted feedback opposing the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall, but I would like to add two additional arguments about why this particular casino is a bad idea for our community and for our state. First, the developer's claim that a casino will reinvigorate the Central Pennsylvania economy is absolutely false. Second, the construction of a casino at the Nittany Mall will not draw additional revenue into Pennsylvania, and it will also adversely affect the existing gaming enterprises in Pennsylvania as a whole.

The impact report for the proposed Nittany Mall Casino (<a href="https://gamingcontrolboard.pa.gov/files/impact reports/SC Gaming OpCo LLC/SC Gaming OpCo LLC Local Impact Report.pdf">https://gamingcontrolboard.pa.gov/files/impact reports/SC Gaming OpCo LLC/SC Gaming OpCo LLC Local Impact Report.pdf</a>) estimates the casino will yield \$121.6 million in economic impact and approximately \$2 million in tax revenues for College Township annually. These headline numbers look good, but they are deceptive.

On average, a casino must take in more from its customers than it pays out or it will go bankrupt. Because the residents of Central Pennsylvania have limited discretionary income, any money they spend at a casino cannot be spent at other area businesses. The proposed casino will therefore redirect existing money flows away from other area businesses to itself, and the additional tax revenues that the casino generates will be offset by the reduced taxes that those other area businesses will pay.

The casino developers argue that the casino will draw tourists from outside of Central Pennsylvania to our area. However, our neighboring larger cities already have casinos of their own, and people from these cities are unlikely to travel several hours to visit a mini-casino at the Nittany Mall. Even when people come to State College for other events like football games, graduations, and Arts Fest, the proposed casino will not be large enough to serve more than a small fraction of these visitors during the times that they are in State College. Instead, the casino would derive most of its revenue from repeat customers within driving distance in Central Pennsylvania.

The impact report projects that the proposed casino will eventually generate annual revenues of \$116 million, most of which will come from our own community. To provide context, this amount is larger than the ~\$100 million of annual revenue that is generated by Penn State's football program (<a href="https://www.collegian.psu.edu/football/penn-state-athletics-annual-financial-report-shows-revenue-drop/article\_5a9599e0-54e1-11ea-a91a-67a25a5cddbb.html">https://www.collegian.psu.edu/football/penn-state-athletics-annual-financial-report-shows-revenue-drop/article\_5a9599e0-54e1-11ea-a91a-67a25a5cddbb.html</a>). Some of the casino's revenues will be used to pay for rent, maintenance and employee salaries, and most of these expenditures will remain in the local community. However, the casino will also pay over \$48 million in tax revenue annually, of which less than \$3 million will be paid to local governments. Approximately \$45 million in taxes will be paid to the state each year, and these taxes likely will be spent outside of Central Pennsylvania. Additionally, the casino's substantial profits will accrue to Bally's Corporation, which is headquartered in Rhode Island, operates casinos in 10 other states and has no other investments in Pennsylvania. Bally's is in business to make money for its investors, and it has no obligation to reinvest its profits into our community or our state.

Even with \$45 million of the casino's annual revenues being paid in taxes directly to the state, the profits that Bally's Corporation will take out of our state will result in tens of millions of dollars being removed from our state economy

each year on the whole. Unless the casino attracts the majority of its annual revenue from tourists from outside of Central Pennsylvania - and ideally from outside of Pennsylvania altogether - it will end up extracting millions of dollars from our local economy and from our state each year rather than bringing additional money to it. To make this more concrete, the casino will likely redirect about half of the revenue that Penn State's football program draws to Central Pennsylvania each year back out of the Central Pennsylvania region, and about a quarter of that annual revenue is likely to leave the state altogether. Moreover, all of the revenue that the casino captures will be taken away from existing Pennsylvania entertainment enterprises or businesses that create durable goods, capital equipment, infrastructure or skills training that could potentially add value to our community and grow our tax base for the future – whereas the entertainment that the casino provides will cease to exist as soon as it has been consumed.

The Nittany Mall Casino's developers are promoting this casino as a way to bolster Central Pennsylvania's economy, but businesses that do not create lasting value for their customers cannot sustainably improve the quality of life in the societies in which they operate. At best, a casino can draw money into the community in which it operates at the expense of other neighboring communities. However, the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall will not be able to compete effectively with the larger casinos that already operate in the surrounding larger cities in Pennsylvania, and it will therefore fail to benefit the Central Pennsylvania economy in even this limited manner. Furthermore, being a minicasino located in the very center of our state, the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall would be the least effective casino in Pennsylvania for drawing in revenue for Pennsylvania from residents of other neighboring states. Instead, the casino at the Nittany Mall will extract money from the Central Pennsylvania region for the investors of Bally's Corporation at the rate of many millions of dollars per year, and its presence will become an oppressive blight on our community that will depress constructive economic investment in the surrounding region and depress property values in the surrounding area.

Lastly, it is worth noting that the Central Pennsylvania region is the last significant region in Pennsylvania that does not currently have a land-based casino. If a new casino is established at the Nittany Mall, those Central Pennsylvania residents who currently travel to the larger casinos in our neighboring cities will no longer contribute to the revenues and profits of those casinos because they would then be going to the Nittany Mall Casino instead - and the profitability of the existing casinos that these residents currently visit will significantly decrease. Essentially, the addition of a casino in Central Pennsylvania would complete the saturation of the casino market in Pennsylvania, and every casino in our state would then have to compete aggressively for a large enough share of the saturated market to remain viable. It would therefore be better for both the welfare of the Central Pennsylvania region and also for the profitability of the other existing gaming enterprises in Pennsylvania for the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall not to be constructed.

For all of these reasons, as well as the reasons that I outlined in my previous e-mail, I strongly urge you to reject the license for the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Andrew Shaffer** 

State College, Pennsylvania

From: Janet Cernuska < janet.cernuska@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 3:49 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 to you to voice my opposition to giving a gaming license for the purpose of developing a gambling casino at the Nittany Mall in State College, PA. Gambling can be addictive and should not be encouraged. It undermines family values. Believe me, I speak from personal experience. Bill and Janet Cernuska

From: andyy1@verizon.net

Sent: Sunday, October 10, 2021 9:42 AM

To: GB, Board Clerk

Subject: [External] Fwd: FULLY OPPOSED 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.

----Original Message-----From: andyy1@verizon.net

To: boardclerck@pa.gov <boardclerck@pa.gov>

Sent: Sun, Oct 10, 2021 9:33 am

Subject: FULLY OPPOSED TO THE NITTANY MALL CASINO

TO THE PA. GAMING CONTROL BOARD MEMBERS,

IT WOULD BE AN EGREGIOUS ERROR FOR THE PA GAMING CONTROL BOARD TO APPROVE, LATER THIS YEAR, A LICENSE FOR THE PROPOSED CASINO @ THE NITTANY MALL, IN CENTRE COUNTY.

THE CASINO WOULD SWIFTLY & PERMANENTLY TAKE FINANCIAL ADVANTAGE OF LOCAL CITIZENS &, BEING IN THE SHADOW OF PENN STATE UNIVERSITY, MANY (MANY!!) STUDENTS, IN THAT ALL THOSE WHO ENTER ITS CONFINES, WILL BECOME UNKNOWINGLY, COOPERATIVE VICTIMS, TO THE CASINO'S PRIME & ONLY, BUSINESS GOAL OF PILFERING THEIR CUSTOMER WALLETS' CONTENTS, IN A DISTRACTING AND PAINLESS MANNER.

IT WOULD ALSO ATTRACT AN UNSEEMLY CULTURAL ELEMENT, THAT WOULD POLLUTE THE BUCOLIC, "COLLEGE TOWN" ATMOSPHERE OF STATE COLLEGE & HAPPY VALLEY.

I VEHEMENTLY OPPOSE THE CASINO PLAN FOR THE NITTANY MALL, & STRONGLY URGE YOU BOARD MEMBERS TO DENY ITS LICENSE, WHEN THE VOTE OCCURS.

PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING, AND VOTE TO DENY ITS LICENSE, AS THE CASINO'S MULTITUDE OF DISADVANTAGES FOR OUR COMMUNITY, INCOMPARABLY OUTWEIGH ANY ADVANTAGE.

SINCERELY,

MR ANDREW YABLONSKY CENTRE HALL, PA 16828

From:

Pete & Barb Brown <petebarbbrown@gmail.com>

Sent:

Sunday, October 10, 2021 10:33 AM

To:

GB, Board Clerk

Subject:

[External] OPPOSE State College Casino license

**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 support the State College Casino license!

-Pete and Barb Brown, Bellefonte

From:

| Sent:<br>To:                               | Sunday, October 10, 2021 12:30 PM  |
|--|--|
| Subject:                                   | GB, Board Clerk<br>[External]  |
| ,  | [EXCENTAL]   |
| <b>ATTENTION:</b> This ema                 | il message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To il, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.  |
| I am against allowing                      | g a casino to set up shop in our community.  |
| A little research reve                     | eals the reasons why.  |
| According to studies gamblers did not gra  | done in Vegas 20 years ago with over 30,000 people in the sample - 60 percent of duate high school. 40 percent did, and 27% of them attained a college degree.   |
| Currently                                  |  |
| The median income                          | among those with no high school diploma is \$25,000 a year.  |
| Walmart, the largest                       | employer in the US, pays \$24,000 a year on average for most positions.  |
| Walmart stopped dr<br>free workers in this | ug testing entry level applicants last year because they were unable to hire enough drug pay range.  |
| Who's judgement an                         | showing up to our new casino?<br>d decision making is most likely to be influenced by the hope of a life changing win?<br>bling losses the least?  |
| You won't find any o                       | f this is the study we paid for by a third party, but these statistics are well documented.  |
|  | n virtuous to me for a community supposedly steeped in virtue.   |
| And then let's talk ab                     | quantity of gaming losses that is necessary to support the economic benefits that we seek. bout what portion of those losses will be provided by who. What are we willing to ignore? win-win in the casino business. |
|  |  |
| **************************************     |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

John Mason <john@jbnmechanical.com>

From:

GERALD GEARHART < jerrryy@aol.com>

Sent:

Sunday, October 10, 2021 12:37 PM

To: Subject: GB, Board Clerk [External] PGCB

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.

While we agree the State College area needs growth and renewal we strongly oppose the idea that a casino could make a positive contribution. In fact, as long time residents, we think approval of a casino would be extremely detrimental to the welfare of State College.

Patricia L. & Gerald P. Gearhart

pgcb

From:

Bill Marosi <wjmarosi@gmail.com>

Sent:

Sunday, October 10, 2021 2:39 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 whom it may concern,

I am in strong support of the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall, College Township, PA.

Bill Marosi 138 Quincy Avenue State College, PA

Sent from my iPhone

From: Catherine Alloway <allowaycs@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, October 10, 2021 2:44 PM

To: GB, Board Clerk

Subject: [External] Don't Approve Casino in College Township, 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.

We are against this casino in our community. Gambling addiction is on the rise during the pandemic, and this is an additional outlet that encourages destructive behaviors for those so inclined. With statistics showing that Pennsylvania ranks 24th in gambling addiction issues, why expand opportunities for individual economic loss? Layer this with local opioid addiction rates and a lack of local affordable housing - this is not a good recipe for a thriving community, but helps assure there will be even more people struggling in the area.

And yes, we are considering the economic loss of the mall stores in the State College area - but it appears there is plenty of commercial and retail interest and construction ensuing on the Benner Pike without a casino to be added in the mix.

We find it ironic that a casino, a proven, quick and easy way to LOSE money, is applying for a site in a community where people pay big bucks to learn how to EARN money, via a degree from Penn State University.

WE ARE AGAINST THIS CASINO.

https://wallethub.com/edu/states-most-addicted-to-gambling/20846

--

Kevin and Catherine Alloway 119 Trinity Lane Port Matilda, PA 16870 Patton Township residents

From:

Barger II, David Joel <djb505@psu.edu>

Sent:

Sunday, October 10, 2021 8:27 PM

To:

GB, Board Clerk

Subject:

[External] PA Gaming Control Board & 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.qov.

To whom it may concern, my name is DJ Barger and I am a resident of State College, PA. I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall.

I certainly understand officials' desire to fill the unused space at the mall, but for several reasons, I think a casino would be worse than leaving it vacant. My first issue is that the public benefits from a casino tend to dwindle over time (Chadburn, 2017). I do not want us to become like Tunica County, Mississippi, where the benefits of casinos wore off, leaving the town destitute (Harlen, 2015).

My second and third issues are that 2) casinos often draw in those who are poor and cannot afford to risk any of their money (Barnes et al., 2013), and 3) casinos have the worst effects on minority communities (Welte et al., 2015), specifically Black and Hispanic populations. In this way, casinos hurt their local communities and, contrary to what operators might argue, they inhibit upward social mobility.

In closing, casinos are not like regular stores, restaurants, or office buildings. They employ some people but they put they put other people at great risk. Although it's true that each individual is responsible for their own actions, government officials have to consider the big picture effects of large amounts of poor choices. Licensing a casino to operate is effectively licensing the proprietor to take advantage of the most disadvantaged citizens.

#### References

Barnes, G. M., Welte, J. W., Tidwell, M. C. O., & Hoffman, J. H. (2013). Effects of neighborhood disadvantage on problem gambling and alcohol abuse. *Journal of Behavioral Addictions*, 2(2), 82-89.

Chadburn, M. (2017). Why Casino-Driven Development Is a Roll of the Dice. *Bloomberg CityLab* Harlen, C. (2015). An opportunity gamed away. *The Washington Post*.

Welte, J. W., Barnes, G. M., Tidwell, M. C. O., Hoffman, J. H., & Wieczorek, W. F. (2015). Gambling and problem gambling in the United States: Changes between 1999 and 2013. *Journal of gambling studies*, 31(3), 695-715.

DJ Barger Graduate Assistant Communication Arts & Sciences 316 Sparks Building University Park, PA 16802

From:

kcrabtree1214 < kcrabtree1214@gmail.com>

Sent:

Sunday, October 10, 2021 9:29 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.

GentlePersons,

Are you NUTS??? Allowing a casino to move into Centre County is such a bad idea that one wonders what you can possibly be THINKING! Casinos have traditionally created far more social and business problems than they ever fix. These include higher crime in the area of the casino; gambling addiction; increased domestic violence; and the ruination of other, more family-friendly, local businesses.

PLEASE!!! VOTE NO!!!

Sincerely,

Karen Crabtree Boalsburg

Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: Cindy Evcic <cindy.evcic.c5rh@statefarm.com>

Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 10:10 AM

**To:** GB, Board Clerk

Subject: [External] FW: 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.

To who it may concern:

Please consider declining the approval of the Casino at the Nittany Mall.

State College has wonderful activities, beautiful outdoor areas, and cultural events for everyone.

We do not need to have folks bussed in from outside the area to use the Casino. It will not add to the economy as far as I can see.

If local folks use it, it will take business from the many small businesses that provide food and entertainment.

Every establishment in the area is looking for employees so I do not think we need more employment opportunities to keep the area running.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cindy Evcic State College, PA

From:

Ti Breon <tibreon@icloud.com>

Sent:

Monday, October 11, 2021 2:04 PM

To:

boardclerk@pa.gov.

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 iPhone No...No...No casino in State College ( )

From:Phyllis Gardener <ptgard62@gmail.com>Sent:Tuesday, October 12, 2021 12:28 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.

PA Gaming Control Board:

I am completely against allowing a casino in State College or anywhere in Centre County. It is detrimental to the area and its residents. Addictive behavior is encouraged in such places. It benefits no one but wealthy owners.

NOT ACCEPTABLE in any way!!!

Phyllis Gardener

From:

Grace Lang <gajlang22@gmail.com>

Sent:

Tuesday, October 12, 2021 4:02 PM

To:

GB, Board Clerk

Subject:

[External] 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.

PA Gaming Control Board Dear Sirs and Mesdames,

PLEASE, No Casino in the Nittany Mall. My heart already aches for families of local gambling addicts and fans. Their husbands or wives won't be able to resist a "trip to the Mall" just to see "what's happening." Or to have just a little "Flutter".

This has to be very, very difficult for you, where to put something you know is inherently bad for local people and local entertainment businesses, but appears to be so economically good. At first. And, "there's the rub."

Sincerely, Grace Lang

Sent from my iPad