

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Mary Carol Frier <marycarolfrier@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 8:48 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 adamantly OPPOSE the Casino. IT REPRESENTS A VICE INDUSTRY and has no place in Centre County PA.

Mary Carol Frier

--

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

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Postle, Kathleen <kup14@psu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 12:18 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] vote against the Nittany Mall Casino
Attachments: PastedGraphic-1.pdf

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To the PGCB,

I want to express my strenuous opposition to the proposed Nittany Mall Casino in the strongest terms possible. As a PSU professor charged with overseeing the health and welfare of our student population and as a resident of State College, I say that infestation by a casino will only bring out the worst in our community—gambling addiction, poverty, increased crime, and increased student alcohol consumption. There is no other reason to inflict this on our community other than greed. It will not be a positive addition, and there are many better things to do with that space that would enhance our community.

Please vote against the proposed Nittany Mall Casino.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Postle

Kathleen Postle, Ph.D.
(she/her)
Professor Emeritus
Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
The Pennsylvania State University
301 Althouse Laboratory
University Park, PA 16802
Ph. 814-863-7568
Fx. 814-863-7024

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Gretchen Heim <gretch154@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 12:53 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Casino

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Please NO,NO,NO,NO,NO please.

Don't ruin my town. Gretchen Heim

Sent from my iPad

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: mary troup <mtroup52@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 4:54 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Nittany Casino

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Dear Sir,

I highly vote NO to the Nittany Casino issue, and so should you.

Thank you,
Mary Troup

Sent from my iPhone

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: S Sausser <slf152@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 12:09 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] NO 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.

I'm writing to reiterate my opposition to the casino at the Nittany Mall. With recent gun violence shattering lives across our country, you can't possibly allow a business that will only bring increased rates of crime, violence, and addiction. Please do not turn a blind eye to this. The only people the casino stands to benefit are the developers. You can guarantee they wouldn't propose this in their own neighborhood. Act now- protect our children. The greed has to stop now.

I am a resident of College Township, minutes away from the proposed site.

Sandra Sausser

Sent from my iPhone

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: cathy walker <cathyannewalker@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 1:46 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk; GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Casino

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It would be the proper think to give Bally the license for the casino. They have paid over and over for the right. It would be a plus for State College pa.

Casinos are fun, clean, safe and a good source of revenue for the community.

Thanks

James

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Heidi Biever <heidibiever15@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 9:47 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] No casino for State College!

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To Whom it may concern,

As a mom and teacher in the State College community, I vehemently oppose the casino going forward. Our town needs to continue to focus on education and safety for our children, and a gambling destination does not support these ideals. Please deny the license and keep our town free of gambling and the dire side effects of a gambling location.

Thank you,
Heidi Biever

--

Heidi Biever
"And Love is reflected in Love"
-Mary Baker Eddy

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Leon, Georgina <gxl2@psu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 12:07 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Cc: Andrew Shaffer
Subject: [External] NO TO THE 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.*

Why won't our State College community have the opportunity to question the folks who are proposing the casino so that we might ask questions in person? There are so many questions that need to be answered, among them: will alcohol be served? will employees be paid a living wage, and will they be full-time or part-time? what type of businesses are expected to be attracted close by a casino? who is responsible for security -- College Township or Bally's? will minors be allowed to gamble?

We deserve to be able to question the people who are proposing this intrusion into our community -- in person. Please at least delay the decision until the community has had time to meet with and obtain some answers from the developers.

Gina Hershey Leon
State College, PA 16803

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Martha MICUDA <mmmicuda@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 12:36 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Cc: Andrew Shaffer
Subject: [External] Opposition to Proposed Mini-Casino at Nittany Mall, College Township, State College Area

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.*

When I moved to College Township in 1970, I could never have dreamed that I would one day have to write letters to affirm and reaffirm my strong opposition to a casino opening in my peaceful university community. My late husband was a retired librarian at Pattee Library, being Head of the Science and Technology Libraries on the University Park Campus, and both of my adult children are proud alumni of Penn State. Published research studies and common sense tell you that a casino is not a proper fit for a university community with its vulnerable student, retiree, and young family residents. It is no accident that College Township is the ONLY municipality in the State College Area that opted to pursue the possibility of a casino.

The quality of life here is excellent for the most part, and residents value that greatly. Currently, however, some greedy investors and developers are doing everything they can to lessen and destroy our quality of life. Developers from Chicago and elsewhere have built or are building high-rise structures on many State College street corners, whether the community needs them or not. Money and profit are powerful motivators. Now, these same or similar investors and developers are eyeing areas around State College, including College Township. The proposed casino at Nittany Mall is just one example. Never mind that most of the people who will regularly frequent such an establishment in the long run will be the ones who can least afford to do so.

Gambling (or gaming as it is delicately called now) can often become like any other addiction. You think it will never affect you or your loved ones, but I bear witness that it can. I have a loved one with a serious addiction, and it has destroyed her life and perilously impacted her family. I would not wish this fate on anyone. I do not understand why a community such as ours with everything it has going for it and its residents would want a casino with all it brings. There is much more to life than money, although some who will benefit monetarily from a casino at Nittany Mall might not think so.

It is no secret that the Nittany Mall is dying. It is sharing the fate of malls all over America. This is just the sign of the times in which we live now. Fortunately, the Internet is rife with all sorts of clever and meaningful ways that malls have been repurposed to benefit the communities and residents where they are located. Surely a vibrant university community such as ours could do the same.

After the novelty and shiny newness of a casino in one's midst wears thin, will the majority of residents want to deal with the aftermath? Sure, College Township officials will have a few more dollars to spend and possibly mismanage to some degree. (They have already said that they do not need this added revenue.) Will College Township residents see their local taxes decrease? I seriously doubt that. Will casino-based "tourism" truly benefit the community? I doubt that too. If even one child is left alone at risk to harm or predators at Nittany Mall, in a car in the Mall parking lot, or inside a local motel or hotel, would a casino be worth the risk? No, it would not. Would parents of Penn State students want their children to gamble big-time or become addicted to gambling while in the care of the University, its administrators, and esteemed trustees? No. Why would any university, in this case a major, respected land-grant one, want that legacy for itself and for its students and community? Why would the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania allow it?

I realize that it is easier and more convenient to not speak out, to remain anonymous, and to let a few wealthy and well-placed individuals decide our community's fate and what they declare is in our best interests. However, when we do dare to speak out, I hope you will listen. Please listen.

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Katie Bechtel <katie.bechtel@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 4:36 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Opposition to Casino

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From Katie Bechtel

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Childs, Jane L <jlc3@psu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 5:03 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Proposed 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.

No one has mentioned, not a word, so I'll bet you aren't aware there is a gun store in the Nittany Mall (Dunham's), not 40 yards from the proposed Casino. Imaging the carnage that could/will take place at the Casino, when a man (it is almost always a man) loses his shirt at the slot machines, or at cards, etc., then races to Dunham's, buys a gun, and shoots the first people he sees at the Casino. Blaming the Casino for his problems, his losses, his depression, his drinking... he'll feel justified. You get the picture. **This casino is a very bad idea.** There is no benefit to the Commonwealth, the township, the mall, the surrounding homes, etc., no benefit at all. The only benefit is to the already very, very rich mall developer (Ira Lupert) and those who support his greed.

Think about it. Guns and a casino...what is wrong with this picture?

JL Childs, State College

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Sue Jackson <sue_jack@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 6:01 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] casino comment

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

Dear Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board,

I am writing to share my thoughts concerning the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall in State College, Pennsylvania.

I am very strongly opposed to this proposal. Nor have I talked to anyone, friend or acquaintance, who is in favor of bringing a casino to our town. All are sad, disappointed, even angry about the harm that will come to many by living or working in proximity to this venture. What harm, you may ask?

First, it will hurt the poor. Those who are least able to gamble without doing harm to themselves or their households are the very ones who are tempted to give it a try. The people I have known or personally heard about who have gambled to their detriment were all folks who 'couldn't afford to lose' at gambling, including one mature woman who filed for bankruptcy several times. Who ends up paying for the losses of the poor when they gamble? The community they live in pays.

Second, with a large college campus in town who else will be hurt by gambling? It will be students who already are carrying debt they may never be able to repay, or more likely in many cases it will be their parents who pay. Is this the type of 'opportunity' in town that will help build them into honest, hard-working, self-supporting citizens? If a bar establishment will be connected to the casino is this not another negative drawing point for students?

Third, it hurts the entire community because they will pay for the broad negative consequences. Gambling is not a wholesome endeavor. But this is a free country, to each his own. Yes. Does that mean it belongs here? Does that mean those desiring to bring it here should hold sway? Truly, I don't know of a person who wants a casino here.

I recently learned that The Lycoming Mall has been turned into a casino. A drive of one hour and twenty-three minutes will supply a gambling opportunity there for any who desire it and can - hopefully - afford to gamble. Further, in the Centre County Gazette where your article about the casino appears on the front page for May 26-June 1, it is interesting to also read an article that appears on page 5 entitled, "New bus route to connect State College and Atlantic City". In the article it specifies that "Service will end in Atlantic City at three casino locations...."

Could we not do better for our town than to try to make it another casino destination? How sad. With I-80 in close proximity what-or-whom will we be attracting? Look at the police blogs for activity on I-80 and note the drug traffic, immigrant/potential human trafficking, etc.

I appreciate that you extended the time period for public comment. There are many who have not heard what is proposed, or how to comment, or when public meetings have taken place or will take place in the future. The decline of print news leaves many getting news in various ways, and news like this may only spread by word-of-mouth.

Not all investments in a community are good. Some put money in the pockets of the investors or developers to the harm of the people that end up having to live with it. I believe that is true in this case, and I hope you deny the proposal.

500 E. Marilyn Ave.
Apt. H-125
State College, PA 16801
June 3, 2022

PA Gaming Control Board
303 Walnut St. Fifth Floor Commonwealth Tower
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Attn: Board Clerk,

I've written my protests to the proposed
casino in Centre County previously, but
yesterday I received my Mayo Clinic
Health Newsletter. The enclosed
article featured in it describes
every danger connected with gambling.

Please read it carefully before
proceeding with a casino here!!

Yours truly,



Dorothy C. Lutz

Gambling disorder

Detection, treatment important against this bad bet

You probably know that people with common addictions such as alcohol or drug misuse disorders may lie about their substance use, put their relationships at risk to keep using or use substances as a stress reliever. But these behaviors are also common for people with gambling disorders.

More and more often, problem gambling occurs not in a casino or horse track but privately, on any electronic device with an internet connection.

This became especially true during the COVID-19 pandemic when many public gathering places closed or limited access, leaving people to navigate isolation and loneliness at home. At the same time, the ability to bet on sports from home became more widely available — more than a third of Americans can legally do so.

Gambling stimulates the brain's reward system much like drugs or alcohol can, which can lead to addiction. Compulsive gambling, also called gambling disorder, is the uncontrollable urge to keep gambling despite its toll. People with compulsive gambling may continually chase bets that lead to losses, hide their behaviors, deplete savings, accumulate debt, or even resort to theft or fraud to support their addictions.

Who's at risk

Gambling disorder is more likely to occur in younger people and in men. However, increased online gambling opportunities and the rise in loneliness can put older adults at increased risk. Other factors that increase risk include:

- **Access** — Living within 50 miles of a gambling facility, such as a casino, dramatically increases the risk of gambling disorder.
- **Mental health disorders** — People with substance use problems, personality disorders, depression and anxiety are more prone to gambling disorder.

HELP IS A PHONE CALL AWAY

For immediate help with a gambling disorder or other mental health issue, call the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration at 1-800-662-4357. The National Council on Problem Gambling also hosts a 24-hour national helpline. Call or text 1-800-522-4700 or connect online at www.ncpgambling.org/chat. In addition, gambling disorder is associated with an increased risk of suicide. If you or someone you know is considering suicide, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

- **Certain medications** — Dopamine agonists such as pramipexole are used to treat Parkinson's disease and restless legs syndrome. However, they have a rare side effect of increased compulsive behaviors, including gambling.
- **Certain personality characteristics** — People who are highly competitive, prone to working a lot, impulsive, restless or easily bored have an increased risk of gambling disorder.

Is it a problem?

It's important to understand the difference between entertainment betting games with friends and problematic behavior. Some studies have found that low-risk, casual gambling in older adults provides some social and cognitive benefits.

According to the American Psychiatric Association, people who've experienced at least four of the following indicators in the last year may have a gambling disorder:

- Needing to gamble with increasing amounts to achieve excitement
- Feeling restless or irritable when trying to cut down or stop gambling
- Repeatedly trying and failing to control, cut back on or stop gambling
- Thinking frequently about gambling, even when not actively doing it
- Using gambling for stress relief
- "Chasing losses" — Returning to get even after losing money gambling
- Lying to hide gambling activity
- Risking or losing a close relationship, a job, or a school or job opportunity because of gambling
- Relying on others to help with money problems caused by gambling

What can I do?

As with most people with addiction, those with a gambling disorder will often be the last to realize they have a problem. But seeking treatment can help you regain a sense of control — and perhaps help heal damaged relationships or finances.

Some approaches include:

- **Behavior therapy or cognitive behavioral therapy** — Behavior therapy uses systematic exposure to the behavior you want to unlearn and teaches you skills to reduce the urge to gamble. Cognitive behavioral therapy focuses on identifying unhealthy, irrational and negative beliefs and replacing them with healthy, positive ones.
- **Medications** — No drug has been specifically approved to treat gambling disorder. However, some antidepressants may be effective in reducing gambling behavior. Medications called narcotic antagonists, used successfully in treating substance use disorders, may help treat compulsive gambling.
- **Support groups** — Ask your health care provider for recommendations on self-help groups, such as Gamblers Anonymous and other resources. You may also connect informally and share resources with others on community chat boards such as Mayo Clinic Connect, at www.connect.MayoClinic.org.

In addition, treatment for substance use, depression, anxiety or any other mental health disorder may be part of a treatment plan for gambling disorder. ■

June 3, 2022

To: PA Gaming Control Board
303 Walnut St., 5th Floor Commonwealth Tower
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Attention: Board Clerk

From: Lee and Jeanette Conklin
2261 Bristol Ave
State College, PA 16801

Re: Casino request in College Township, Centre County, PA

Dear PA Gaming Control Board,

We are IN FAVOR OF THE Centre County Casino. I know some of residents think the college students would be spending money at the Casino, but most of them are here for an education not to gamble. When the semester is done, they go home.

Also, if there was a problem with Bally's casino businesses, I am sure we would of heard more about them in the news. We have a lot of senior citizens in our community, and we think once in awhile they would like to go to the casino. We still like to have fun once in awhile.

Thank you for your time, and you do a good job in keeping everything on the up and up.

Sincerely,

 
Lee and Jeanette Conklin

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Howard Pillot <howardpillot@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 9:43 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Casino Nittany Mall

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Dear Executive:

I would like to restate that I oppose a casino in the Nittany Mall in the State College region. This is a very bad idea as our town is excellent for children and a casino has no place in a town that promotes education as its primary industry. Young lives are at stake and a casino puts all of our young people at risk for the seedy side of casinos.

Howard Pillot State College Borough Taxpayer

Sent from my iPad

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Theresa Tarves <ttarves81@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 9:59 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Opposition to Nittany Mall Casino

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

Good Morning,

I am writing to express that I am opposed to the development of a casino at the Nittany Mall. I live in State College and work at Penn State, as does my husband. We also have two young children who are or will attend school in the State College Area School District. I believe that a casino will not add positives to our community, but rather, take away some of the local charm of living in a small community that values students and families.

I am asking you to vote no on granting a casino license for the Nittany Mall Casino.

Thank you,
Theresa Tarves

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Sheryl <robandssheryl@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 9:59 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] No casino

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To whom it may concern,

I am opposed to a casino being introduced to our "Happy Valley." I have seen first hand how casinos hurt communities.

Please stop this from happening here!

Soberly yours,

Sheryl Groner
814-505-6456

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Donna Symons <gotpotts@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 10:04 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Casino

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We fundamentally oppose building a casino in State College. It is simply a wrong fit on so many levels . We urge the board to reject this. Do not ruin our community.

Frank & Donna Symons
State College
Residents since 1970

Sent from my iPhone

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Dreibelbis, Carol <cld6@psu.edu>
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 10:08 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 object to the Nittany Mall Casino. People addicted to gambling can become desperate, getting involved in robberies and possibly murders. Our community is fairly safe now and I don't want that to change. I've lived and worked the area since 1969 and always felt safe, but the casino would change that.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Zion Community Church <zioncommunitychurch@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 10:10 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Nittany Mall Casino

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Please deny the license for the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall.

Holly Keen

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

Stop telling God how big your storm is...instead tell the storm how big your God is!!!

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Trinkley, William Bruce <wbt1@psu.edu>
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 11:01 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Cc: Charnesky, Jason
Subject: [External] Stop the Casino at 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.

My family, my neighbors and all my acquaintances are adamantly OPPOSED to bringing casino gambling to our community. Casinos preys on those least able to resist or afford gambling addiction. I have seen the societal ravages of casino gambling first-hand. This casino MUST BE STOPPED NOW!

Bruce Trinkley

Professor Emeritus, Penn State

Sent from my iPhone

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Sarah Silver Schwartz <ssilver23@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 11:09 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Opposed to casino

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

Hello,

I am a parent and educator in the State College community and I am writing to let you know that I'm strongly opposed to the Nittany Mall being turned into a casino. The research is very clear on this - it is not a good thing for our community, and I find this very concerning.

Thank you for your time and taking my opinion into consideration.

Sarah Schwartz

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: hgz <hgz@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 12:20 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Nittany Mall Casino

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

Dear Board:

As a resident of State College, I am writing you once again to reiterate my staunch opposition to the granting of a license for the proposed Nittany Mall casino. While the casino, if opened, would presumably provide nice profits for the company and investors, it would be an absolute disaster for area residents. Any local economic benefits would be more than negated by all the negatives its presence would bring—increased addiction and crime issues, as well as the many other downstream problems that other communities have experienced after a casino such as what is being proposed has come to their town.

Please do the right thing and DENY the license for this casino. As you are seeing, the overwhelming sentiment of area residents is that it is NOT wanted in our community!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Hollis G. Zelinsky
State College, PA

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Bolton, Lisa Elizabeth <leb14@psu.edu>
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 1:26 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Casino Opposition

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

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing to express my continued opposition to the development of a casino at the Nittany Mall. I believe the net effect of the casino will be negative due to its harmful effects. These include gambling addiction, poverty, and crime, as well as their damaging consequences for families. I live in the community, as do my children, and I have seen firsthand the harmful effects of gambling (including addiction) in my own extended family. Please refuse this license and protect our community.

Thank you.

Lisa E. Bolton
224 S Patterson St
State College PA
16801
814 880-3785

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Heather Ricker-Gilbert <heatherrg160@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 1:59 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Cc: andrewshaffer148@gmail.com
Subject: [External] Proposed Casino in Centre County

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

In State College, we now are going to have public bus transportation for people to travel as far as Atlantic City. So with this opportunity available for gamblers to travel to New Jersey why do we need to construct our own Casino at the Nittany Mall along the Benner Pike?.

Except to make a few already rich people richer, who will own the casino, I see no reason why we need a gambling spot in central Pennsylvania.

Please do not allow this Casino to be built in Centre County.

Sincerely,

Heather Ricker-Gilbert
160 East White Hall Road
State College, Pa 16801

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Kay Shirk <kays816@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 5:40 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Proposed casino in 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.*

As longtime residents of College Township in State College, we have seen many changes in our community throughout the years. But the most distressing proposed change -- adding the gambling casino to the Nittany Mall -- would adversely alter our area far more than you could possibly know from your vantage point in Harrisburg.

There are already an enormous number of Penn State students living in College Township, and there will be many more residing here soon with the large number of high-rise apartments now under construction, located (ironically) across from the township building where this casino was first touted. Many of these students are already struggling with financial difficulties, frequently amassing huge debt if they are even able to graduate. *The last thing they need within a couple of miles is a gambling casino to attract them so that they would neglect their studies and go further into debt.*

I won't even go into detail about the problem of excessive alcohol consumption of students (as well as many others) in the State College area. Any member of the police forces in Centre County can tell you what they deal with. Having the chance to drink at a gambling casino would positively increase the rate of drunk driving among students and residents alike, making the local roads even more of a hazard. *We already struggle with drunk drivers, people running through stop signs, and driving through red lights throughout State College.*

Along with the number (47,000+) Penn State students living in the State College area, we also have a high number of lower-income residents who can ill afford to be frequenting a gambling casino. You already know how the elderly gravitate to the slot machines, and many of these people are on limited incomes, struggling to keep a roof over their heads. The cost of housing -- whether purchasing a home or renting in the State College area -- is exceptionally high. *A gambling casino in College Township would further erode the finances of low-income people and the elderly, causing other problems as well.*

A gambling casino at the Nittany Mall is, quite simply, a bad idea. Keep the casinos in the larger, more populated metropolitan areas. Please do NOT allow a casino to be established in the middle of central Pennsylvania.

Centre County, an area gifted with quiet, rural communities and farms, as well as an esteemed university, needs no casino that would drastically change and ruin the character of a place that we and many others have been proud to call home.

Kay and Vaughn Shirk
College Township, State College, PA

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Annie Simmons <aesimmons11@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 7:32 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] I Oppose 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.*

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to join my voice in earnestly opposing the plans for a casino to be established in the old Nittany Mall. We want to protect our young children and the many other young families of this town from the dangers and evils that a gaming culture presents to the community around it. Please do not approve the license for this casino.

With gratitude,
Anne Simmons

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Grigor, Catherine <cqg3@psu.edu>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 10:01 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Opposition to casino at Nittany Mall

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

Hi

I am writing this message to let you know that I strongly oppose PGCB's approving a license for a casino at the Nittany Mall in College Township.

Catherine Grigor
Harris Township

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Jonathan Stube <jonathan@centrecounseling.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 10:31 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Casino

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

Hello,

I am a resident and business owner in college township. I am opposed to the casino at the nittany mall or anywhere in our township. Thank you.

Jonathan

--

Jonathan Stube, Ph.D, LPC
Centre Counseling and Wellness

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Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Janet Nelson <janetcnelson55@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 11:03 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.

Hello

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed Casino at the Nittany Mall. I personally think gambling is deciding to put your resources into something that will not bear fruit in any way. The likelihood of anything positive coming from this place is maybe 5% for an individual. Meanwhile the masses experience loss. But most of all this mindset of throwing away resources only encourages those on the fringes of society or those who are troubled to put their faith in something that will not better their lives but only make it worse. These people continue to revisit what cannot help them and eventually become destitute or homeless.

State College is a community of hard working people. They want the this region to reflect that through study, farming, start up businesses and connected families with a strong commitment to decent community growth. I believe this casino will cater to those that have no commitment to community fabric and thus add no value in any way. In fact it may tempt those who are focused now into going down a road that leads nowhere. Our young people have enough temptation in this world to lead them nowhere without having a casino nearby.

I have raised our children here and hope to see my grandchildren flourish here and this place of false dreams is an ugly vision I really don't want to see.

So please reconsider this decision to build a place that adds nothing to what we have already built here. There is truly no place for this so close to our schools, churches, and decent businesses.

Thank you

Janet Nelson

Sent from my iPhone

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Susan N. Hochreiter <susannovak@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 5:22 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Centre County Casino Project

***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.*

June 4, 2022

To: Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board

There have been numerous letters to the editor in our local newspaper (*Centre Daily Times*)... all but two (that I have seen) gave valid reasons why the proposed casino should not be built at the mall in College Township. By now, you have received many comments and are knowledgeable for the reasons to deny.

The negatives far outweigh the positives. Therefore, I request that your Board deny approval.

Sincerely,

Susan N. Hochreiter
615 Berkshire Drive
State College, PA 16803
814 235-2267
susannovak@aol.com

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Hillary Haris <hcmh@outlook.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 9:52 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Opposition to State College Casino

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

To whom it may concern,

This email is to share opposition to the casino proposed at the Nittany Valley Mall. A casino in State College would be devastating to our community. As a foster parent for almost 14 years, I have seen landscape of child welfare shift as the opioid epidemic grew. The casino would add to this tragedy and increase strain on social services, primarily child welfare. As parents suffer financial losses and get involved with the other ills that accompany gambling (drugs, prostitution, addiction to name a few), more families would have to come in contact with Children and Youth Services. There is no doubt that more children and youth will end up in foster care as a result of a casino moving into our community.

Finally, while State College may appear to “have money” because of the influx of visitors, this phenomenon only occurs during the seven or so home PSU football games. The rest of the year, the clientele would be university students, who should not be wasting time and money gambling, or the residents of our county most of whom live on humble earnings, again a population that should not be wasting their money on gambling.

I implore you to deny the casino being planned for State College.

Thank you!

Hillary Haris

814-321-3199

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Robi Haris <robiharis@outlook.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 9:53 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Opposition to State College Casino

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

To whom it may concern,

My wife and I have been Centre County foster parents for almost 14 years. We have seen the strain being put on the child welfare system due to the opioid epidemic. Adding a casino to our Centre County community would add further strain as more children and youth would enter the foster care system due to vulnerable parents gambling meager funds, and being distracted from the job of parenting. These vulnerable parents would be more easily lured to gambling addiction, drugs, prostitution and further poverty if the casino were to be built in our community.

Also, there is the illusion that State College is a wealthy community. It is true that there are pockets of wealth fueled by PSU. This only occurs seven weekends out of the year for PSU football. The other 45 weekends of the year casino clientele would be university students and other Centre County residents living on meager incomes looking for excitement, not realizing in the moment they are most likely going to not yield financial gain.

Please do not build a casino in our community, it will be devastating!

Robert Haris Jr.

814-876-0751

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Janet Friel <janetfriel6@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2022 1:52 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Cc: neelibendapudi@psu.edu; bot@psu.edu
Subject: [External] Deny the 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,

Please deny the license for the proposed Nittany Mall Casino.

I live in a neighborhood of older people who enjoy the amenities of State College. If a casino were to be located here, many of those would become inaccessible to us.

We don't want the problems associated with gambling.

Thank you,

Janet Friel

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Beth Williams <gbvm34@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2022 9:24 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] No No No

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

My husband and I do NOT want the Nittany Mall Casino to happened. It will only create homelessness to the area. Go to another State and open it there.

Sent from my iPad

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Chris Homan <choman214@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 9:47 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Proposed Nittany Mall casino

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

We are opposed to the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall.

According to the Pennsylvania State Police, last year there were 171 incidents of a child left unattended at casinos in Pennsylvania.

This year there have already been 74 incidents.

Do we need more places opening, to have more kids left in vehicles, so that the parents can gamble?????

Chris Homan

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Celeste Henderlong <celestehenderlong@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 1:50 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 do NOT put a Casino in this local mall.

Gambling and additional crime in this neighboring area can not help the State College area.

Celeste Henderlong
174 Independence Ave
State College, Pa 16801

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Joyce E Hall <jeh21@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 9:52 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Opposition to casino

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

Hello,

A number of months ago, I sent an email stating my opposition to the proposed Nittany Mall Casino. I am writing today to restate my opposition and concern for our community. I have lived in Centre County for 31 years and am greatly invested in the environment and health of our community. I live in Benner Township Independent, not too far from the Nittany Mall. I believe that a casino would bring greater problems to our area than it would bring benefits. I'm concerned about the addictive nature of gambling and the effect on our Penn State college students, as well as the negative behavior brought on by attenders which often accompanies casinos. I believe having a casino here would make our community less safe.

Please do not allow a casino to bring down our community!

Joyce Hall
Bennett Township Independent
State College, PA

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Nancy Cord-Baran <ncb612@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 10:55 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] State College Casino

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

Please deny the application for a casino in State College.
It is not a good idea for so many reasons. I am greatly opposed.
The number one reason is gambling addiction and the havoc it can wreak on lives.
It can also harm our community.
Thank you,
Nancy Cord-Baran

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Melinda Ohlson <rehmmel@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 5:17 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Re: 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 -

Thank you for taking the time to sincerely consider the voices in our community.

As a resident of College Twp for over 20 years and mother of 5 children, all 16 and under, I am STRONGLY opposed to the proposed casino. We live within 5 minutes of the Nittany Mall and I frequent several businesses in and around the NM (Including Wild Side, Planet Fitness and Rural King) as well as several of the stores and restaurants in that area.

Besides being a poor investment decision (in comparison to building in a community where there is an actual city), the casino will inevitably have a negative impact on our community and residents. The spending at the casino will draw money away from our local business community and (as is frequently the case in communities where a casino opens) opens a Pandora's box to those prone to addiction.

Though some may say the casino will not have a negative impact on our region because it will bring more traffic and benefit to the area, this argument is invalid for several reasons.

First, I have yet to see a study where a casino financially benefits the actual community in which it is located. Many small businesses have struggled to keep afloat over the past few years, and a casino would draw dollars away from those who have invested their work and lives to make our area the lovely, safe place that it is.

Some may say that the draw of football / tour traffic will benefit from a casino. This is also erroneous because out-of-town visitors will either ignore the casino to enjoy the ambiance and experience of their Penn State visits, or they will be diverted / distracted from a unifying focal point of our area.

Some may argue that there are not enough options for responsible adult entertainment in the area. This is invalid because there are already 2 casinos within an hour's drive. Those who are seeking a casino atmosphere can easily make the trip, should they so desire.

Finally, it might be suggested that a casino would elevate or benefit the social atmosphere of the area. This is also false. While a casino at the NM would rob local businesses of potential income, it could also draw a myriad of other social problems such as addiction, solicitation and the like. I am no stranger to the direct effects of the slippery slope of gambling for individuals who just "try it out." And a casino here would follow the pattern of so many others - preying on a very few under the guise of "responsible adult entertainment."

I urge you to consider carefully and compassionately the voices of us - who live here - for the sake of the safety of our community, and the financial stability of our people and businesses, and REFUSE and strike down the move for a casino in our area.

We believe and trust that you'll side with majority and on behalf of what is best for our community!

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Eileen Pfaff <epfaff1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 1:44 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.*

Please don't put a casino in the Nittany Mall. What used to be a lively community gathering place will be a very sad place with a gambling casino and two gun stores--Rural King and Dunham's. Please don't let this happen.

Eileen Pfaff
500 E. Marylyn Avenue
Apt. D58
State College, PA 16801

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Xiao, Ming <mzx102@psu.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 2:19 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Opposition to casino at the Nittany Mall in State College

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

Dear Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board:

Please let this email indicate my strongest opposition to the development of a casino at the Nittany Mall in State College, PA! Thank you for hearing our voices!

Ming Xiao, Ph.D., P.E., D.GE, F.ASCE
Professor of Civil Engineering
Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA 16802
Phone: 814-865-8056
<http://www.engr.psu.edu/xiao/index.html>

Home Address: 101 Whitepine Place, Port Matilda, PA 16870

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Jane Robson <jarobson9@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 2:53 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Casino

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

Dear Sir (Madam)

This correspondence is my vote against having a casino in State College. It is an evil waste of hard-earned money.

With COVID leaving many people poorer than they were, and now inflation soaring, it is cruel to tempt people to spend their time and money "hoping to hit it rich".

I have seen the devastation a casino caused in a town where I lived several years ago. Sooo

I stand against the proposed Nittany Mall Casino.

Signed,

Jane Robson

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Jonathan Moore <jonmilesmoore@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 2:59 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,

The introduction of a casino to our area is a bad idea on so many levels.

College Township has no police force but relies on the State College Borough force. A casino is most likely going to be accompanied by various criminal elements which will put pressure on the police and degrade our standard of living especially on football weekends. The developers claim the casino will generate employment opportunities but they will mainly be low paying jobs and the casino will be a sum drain on the local economy. There is one profitable profession that may flourish to the benefit of the student 'body' with the added benefit of it being tax-free due to it's illegality. I have not talked to a single resident that supports the idea of constructing a casino or that thinks it will be a detriment to the community.

Please do not license this enterprise.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Moore

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: andyy1@verizon.net
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 3:02 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Nittany Mall casino license denial

***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 Mr./Ms. PGC Board Clerk;

For the wholesome benefit of the Happy Valley culture, its permanent residents, & the 40,000 matriculated undergrad/graduate Penn State University students, I STRONGLY urge you to deny the Nittany Mall casino license.

A casino in this community will bring nothing but a perpetual pox, to the State College, Pa. environs, & the Penn State flagship campus, University Park, which lies, 3.1 miles from the proposed casino site.

Please make the correct decision by exercising good judgement in denying the Nittany Mall casino license.

Respectfully,

Mr. Andrew Yablonsky
Centre Hall, Pa.

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Miranda Auhl <mirmirmchenry@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 4:00 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Re: Opposition to the Nittany Mall casino

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

Also, if possible, I would like to remain anonymous. I didn't realize that was an option, thank you in advance!

Best,
Miranda Auhl

On Sat, May 28, 2022 at 12:44 PM Miranda Auhl <mirmirmchenry@gmail.com> wrote:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Liz Haushalter <haushouse100@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 4:08 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.*

Please deny the licence for the proposed Nittany Mall Casino. This is not needed in State College.

Vote against!

Elizabeth Haushalter

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Dana Miller <campychica@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 4:41 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] State College Casino

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

I am emailing that for the record, I am 100% opposed to the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall!

DON'T DO IT...it will destroy this town, and our Happy Valley environment!

Signed,

Dana Miller

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Andrew Shaffer <andrewshaffer148@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 4:56 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Additional Letters to the Editor 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 evaluating the license for the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall, please consider the nine additional letters to the editor that have been published about the casino on StateCollege.com and in the Centre Daily Times since I last submitted information on this subject on 5/11/2022. All nine of these additional letters to the editor oppose the casino. A total of 62 letters to the editor regarding the proposed Nittany Mall Casino have now been published in these local State College media publications, with 58 of these letters opposed to the casino and only 4 in support.

The nine most recent letters to the editor that were published since 5/11/2022 are copied below in the order in which they were published. Each letter is accompanied by the URL from which it was copied on 6/7/2022.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew Shaffer

=====

Letter #54

5/13/2022

No Casino Here

Early in her marriage, my cousin lost her beloved husband, Danny, to gambling addiction. His illness resulted in heartbreak, divorce, financial ruin and Danny's early death. One anecdote doesn't prove a rule. But I challenge anyone to find stories of people's lives that have been saved, let alone uplifted, by gambling.

Our region values education and wholesome recreation. There is not one valid national study that states that this casino would contribute to those without incurring social and economic losses. On the contrary, stories similar to ours are terribly common.

Since the College Township Board of Supervisors' inexplicable decision to set this casino in motion, public sentiment has been overwhelmingly negative. Centre Region polling, letters and petition signatures are running over 9:1 against the casino. While we welcome responsible and appropriate new development, this does not qualify.

The Nittany Mall will find new and better tenants as is happening at similar underused malls around the country. Our business and community members are actively planning a better future for the Mall: a future with strong local roots. If a Penn State trustee is looking for a place to develop a casino, we suggest his own community.

Please let us continue to be proud of our region. Please don't allow this casino to proceed.

Contact the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, and go to [SayNoCasino.org](https://www.saynocasino.org) to see how you can be involved.

*G. Randolph Hudson,
Ferguson Township*

<https://www.statecollege.com/letters-local-police-need-radar-rein-in-school-taxes-casino-opposition/>

Letter #55

5/13/2022

Casinos Sell Addiction

A friend recently asked why I oppose the Nittany Mall Casino despite allowing people to make their own choices regarding skills games and the lottery. The answer is primarily a question of scale.

One Canadian study found that 75% of people who gamble in casinos are casual players who can lose a few dollars and walk away without suffering serious problems, but these players contribute only 4% of net gambling revenue. A summary of research on casinos summarizes the overall findings: "Evidence from scholarly studies on the relationship between casino income and problem gambling consistently and robustly points to the conclusion that casinos disproportionately rely on problem and pathological gamblers for their revenue base." (<https://stoppredatorygambling.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/2013-Why-Casinos-Matter-FINAL.pdf> pp. 18, 37-40)

Put simply, casinos are industrial-scale money extraction factories. Casino owners gain a veneer of respectability by providing food and entertainment to casual gamblers, but they make the bulk of their money by addicting a small portion of the community to gambling and then fleecing those people for everything that they have. Without gambling addicts, most casinos would be unprofitable. A casino's business model is principally the same as that of a drug dealer – to make lots of money by selling an addictive product that exploits a small portion of the population. Casino operators are simply more sophisticated than most illegal drug dealers in that they can provide the government with a cut of their profits ("i.e. gambling tax revenues") to legally bribe government officials to look the other way.

Modern casinos create a controlled environment that keeps gambling addicts at their gaming machines until they have run out of money. They intentionally have no windows or clocks to prevent people from realizing how long they have been gambling. The gaming machines are laid out in a maze-like arrangement to make it difficult for people to leave. The games themselves are engineered to use lights and sounds to create the impression that everyone around you is playing and winning – even though this is obviously not the case. Casinos also often give away free alcohol to reduce peoples' inhibitions and impair their judgement about how much money they can afford to lose. (<https://www.feelingvegas.com/why-casinos-dont-have-clocks-windows/>)

Other forms of gambling like skills games and the lottery do not control the gambling environment in these ways, and because of this difference hardly anyone has lost their home or their life's savings playing these types of games – however, many people who gamble at casinos have lost both. Even though I could visit a casino without losing everything that I have, I will not do anything to provide a veneer of respectability to the casino owners who want to exploit my neighbors – especially while there is still a way to prevent this casino from being developed.

Please e-mail the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board at boardclerk@pa.gov and ask them to deny the license for the proposed Nittany Mall Casino, sign the online petition opposing the casino at <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/saynocasino>, and visit <https://SayNoCasino.org> for more information about further actions that you can take.

*Andrew Shaffer,
State College*

<https://www.statecollege.com/letters-local-police-need-radar-rein-in-school-taxes-casino-opposition/>

Letter #56

5/13/2022

Casino Would Harm Local Economy, Residents

Proponents of the proposed Nittany Mall 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 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 sometimes responsible to help and give counsel to people who are poor and struggling to build a financial secure and personally independent life. When I think of them, I imagine how destructive the draw of this casino could be for them—offering them the prospect of quick money, but much more likely draining their fragile economic means and removing yet another barrier to sliding into the life of addiction and crime they're trying to escape. Thousands of Centre County's most vulnerable could be seriously harmed if this casino opens.

The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board must be urged not to 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. Many surely think the casino would be a harmless and fun addition of local color or have been wrongly persuaded that it would be good for the local economy. 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. Make your voice heard in opposition to the Nittany Mall Casino license.

*Zachary M. Simmons,
Ferguson Township*

<https://www.statecollege.com/letters-local-police-need-radar-rein-in-school-taxes-casino-opposition/>

Letter #57

5/18/2022

Cost of casino problems is high

Write to the PA Gaming Control Board, boardclerk@pa.gov, and tell them that we do NOT need a casino in State College.

We have enough trouble managing excessive alcohol consumption, opioid addiction, regional poverty, rising crime, rising homelessness, and depressed adolescents — especially as we ride out the continuing COVID-19 roller coaster. Our social services are already strained. Centre County and Penn State have enough challenges.

The cost of gambling problems to our community will be high. Any financial benefit will likely leave the area. We will be stuck paying for the inevitable mess.

We do not need the additional social sinkhole of gambling and its attendant withering impact on the people who are suckered in. My experience watching gamblers in places like Reno, NV was not the advertised “glamour” seen in ads, but instead a room full of grim, desperate faces of people hunched over the one-armed bandit machines burning through their paychecks on a Friday night.

Do not dump a casino onto our pile of challenges in State College. We do not want to be the regional magnet for gambling and its accompanying problems.

<https://www.centredaily.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article261509547.html>

Letter #58

5/20/2022

Still time to stop Nittany Mall casino

A search for “college students, university students, gambling,” on Google Scholar identifies 21 scholarly articles published between 2018 and 2021. These articles are published in national and international journals by US and international experts in disciplines such as psychiatry, psychology, public health, neurology, sociology and criminology. None of them reveals positive outcomes. All demonstrate risks and dangers to young adults who engage in gambling activities; some investigate the efficacy of therapeutic interventions to treat addictive behaviors and gambling disorder.

Key findings include:

- A) Gambling Disorder is classified as DSM-5 addictive disorder.
- B) The likelihood of college students experiencing gambling problems ranges from 6%-14.6%.
- C) Gambling and substance abuse often overlap among college/university students.
- D) Certain sub-groups of college students demonstrate higher rates of problem gambling: Older students (late 20s to early 30s); student-athletes, especially male; students undergoing stressful life events

Ira Lubert (former Penn State trustee) and Bally’s Corporation proposed building a casino at the Nittany Mall, just four miles from the about 48,000 students at Penn State. College Township approved after conducting traffic impact studies and background checks, and after evaluating the potential for municipal tax revenue. The township did not solicit community feedback or review scholarly studies demonstrating long-term outcomes of gambling and casinos before making their decision.

There is still time to stop this casino from being constructed. Please e-mail your opposition to the Nittany Mall Casino to boardclerk@pa.gov, sign the online petition to stop the casino at www.ipetitions.com/petition/saynocasino, and visit SayNoCasino.org for additional ways to help.

Susan Strauss, State College

<https://www.centredaily.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article261594422.html>

Letter #59

5/22/2022

Casinos feed off addiction

Casino owners gain a veneer of respectability by providing food and entertainment to the majority of their customers who are casual gamblers, but they make the bulk of their money by addicting a small portion of the community to gambling and then fleecing those people for everything that they have. Without gambling addicts, most casinos would be unprofitable.

Modern casinos work hard to keep gambling addicts at their gaming machines until they run out of money. They have no windows or clocks to prevent people from realizing how long they have been gambling. The gaming machines are arranged like a maze to make it difficult for people to leave. The games themselves use lights and sounds to create the impression that the casino is full of people who are winning even if the casino is empty. Casinos also often give away free alcohol to impair addicts' judgment about how much money they can afford to lose.

Skills games and the lottery do not control the gambling environment in these ways, and few people have lost their home or their life's savings playing these types of games – however, many people who gamble at casinos have lost both. Opposing a new casino in our community is therefore a more urgent priority.

Please send your opposition to the proposed Nittany Mall casino to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board at boardclerk@pa.gov, sign the online petition opposing the casino at www.ipetitions.com/petition/saynocasino, and visit SayNoCasino.org for more information about further actions that you can take.

Andrew Shaffer, State College

<https://www.centredaily.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article261631202.html>

Letter #60

6/1/2022

Questions abound with casino

Regarding the proposed "mini" casino, I wrote to ask the PGCB to either vote "no" or delay any vote for another six months and hold an informational meeting here in the intervening time. There are many unanswered questions, such as: Will weapons be allowed? Will alcohol be served? Will minors be allowed? Will there be a security person at every doorway? Will security be the responsibility of the mall, or Bally's or College Township? Will all employees be part-time? Will there be a living wage for this region? What is the length of the current agreement? Has a Bally's casino ever gone bankrupt? Have they ever been sued? Will officials from the Pa. Gaming Control Board be present at all times? What types of businesses do they expect to be attracted (pawn shops, XXX store)? What are the expected hours, as opposed to mall stores?? What is Bally's record in other communities? Have they ever sued a community? (Yes.)

I think that for us to make informed comments, questions like these need to be answered and there should be another hearing, an informational meeting where local people can ask questions, *here*.

If the state will not provide it, we have our own local leaders at the Centre Region or county level who know how to organize a public hearing. This will affect all of us. Any vote should be postponed 6 months.

There is more to having a good community than tourism. Gambling is a money drain, not "development."

<https://www.centredaily.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article261973360.html>

Letter #61

6/1/2022

An Open Letter to Penn State University President Bendapudi

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

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

Seventy-five percent of college students gambled during the past year (whether legally or illegally). Most of those students who are old enough to legally gamble can do so responsibly, but the most recent research estimates that 6% of college students have a serious gambling problem that can result in gambling addiction, unmanageable debt and failing grades.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Since April 15, over 1,100 people have signed an online petition opposing the Nittany Mall casino. A hard-copy petition has been signed by 965 local opponents expressing their strong opposition to the casino.

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

<https://www.statecollege.com/letters-now-is-the-time-for-penn-state-to-take-a-stand-on-nittany-mall-casino/>

Letter #62

6/1/2022

Casino would be 'destructive'

I'm writing to strongly oppose the construction of the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall. I believe that a casino in this area would be destructive to the community. Many people are struggling to make ends meet, particularly now with rising inflation, high fuel costs, etc. The enticement of prospective winnings at a casino would lead many to make poor choices that hurt themselves, their marriages and their families. This in turn will have a wider negative impact on the whole community, including increased crime. The damage done to individuals and families will more than offset any increased revenues to local governments.

As far as the potential for more jobs, local employers have had problems finding enough employees. Jobs going to a gambling facility would thus make it harder for some of these already-established businesses. A casino may look good "on paper", but it would lead to broken lives and be a drain on the community.

*Tom Witmer,
Bellefonte*

<https://www.statecollege.com/letters-now-is-the-time-for-penn-state-to-take-a-stand-on-nittany-mall-casino/>

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Catherine Dauler <cathystatecollege@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 5:58 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Nittany Mall Casino

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

This is such a bad idea. I am opposed to the casino. In other communities, casinos require additional police presence, costing taxpayers money. Students at the university should not be drawn to gambling in a casino. A casino will threaten our sense of safety.

Please deny the license for the proposed Mall Casino. Our community's opposition to the casino will not go away.

Catherine Dauler
State College, PA

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Beth Resko <bgresko48@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 6:08 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Proposed casino at 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.*

To whom it may concern:

I am extremely distressed about the possibility that a casino could be located at the Nittany Mall. It is ludicrous to think that a casino in our neighborhood could possibly enrich our community monetarily, culturally, or any other way, when, as shown in other similar situations, casinos are detrimental to communities and their citizens. I am vehemently opposed to the casino given its potential, again based on data from other communities in similar situations, for addicting the student population to gambling, for violent behavior, and for taking revenue out of our community rather than adding it. Also, there are already established casinos within easy driving distance to provide gambling opportunities for those who want them. PLEASE do not impose a casino on the majority of community residents who do not want it to be installed here.

Sincerely,

Beth Resko
College Township Resident

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Rich Ciervo <richard.ciervo@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 7:02 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Opposition to the 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 Board,

Please consider rejecting the placement of a Casino at the Nittany Mall.

Many in the surrounding counties in Central Pennsylvania have been impacted adversely by the actions that were taken during COVID-19 the past two plus years.

Having a casino would further potentially drain the resources of people who have not yet recovered yet in losing jobs and have experienced prolonged illness.

Richard Ciervo
814 Elmwood St, State College, PA 16801

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Benjamin Waldecker <benwaldecker02@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 9:37 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Casino in College Township

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 name is Ben Waldecker. I live 10 minutes outside college township in State College, and I am strongly opposed to this project. I live in the community and cannot believe placing something like this near a college campus has even been considered. I've seen the way college students will live and party, and I can not even imagine adding a casino to that mix. It will result in chaos, more 911 calls, and many problems.

If that wasn't enough, which I believe it is, there is another aspect to consider. I have heard it discussed how this project will bring jobs and economic growth to the city. This is a small portion of a bigger picture. As far as jobs are concerned, no business in town has adequate help. There are many more jobs than workers. More jobs isn't a bad thing, but it can not be a driving factor due to the lack of workers.

Addiction, although it may not be the norm for those in the casino, will be present. This project will serve as a way for gambling and potentially alcohol addiction to start and grow. I have seen this destroy people and families, and the thought of that being ushered into the community in the name of jobs is ridiculous.

This project needs to be reconsidered and I believe this permit needs to be withheld.

Ben Waldecker

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Rachel Silliman <rachsillygirl10@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 10:19 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] I oppose the development of a casino at 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.

I am opposed to the development of the casino at Nittany Mall. I reside in Centre County and am currently a daycare teacher and college student. The development of a casino hurts families. I oppose it.
Rachel Silliman

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Lisa Richardson <lisarichardson111@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 9:35 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Stop the Casino in State College! Horrible economic development 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.*

Horrible Economic Development Proposal!

We adamantly oppose the casino in State College. Casinos are extractive for a community. Despite whatever taxes the owners are paying, it can't possibly outweigh the detriment to the economic vitality of that area of town and the destructiveness to personal lives. Property values will decline, which will actually lower the business tax base in the future. The nature of other businesses that surround the casino will change. Honestly, businesses are struggling enough, how could you allow such a bottom-of-the-barrel idea get this far? It will have the opposite effect of adding to the tax coffers. People are lured in to spend hard-earned cash in the hopes of winning money. But the only ones who profit are the business owners. **The State College community and individuals will bear all of the costs for years to come and it will stymie the growth of the business tax base.**

It is particularly irresponsible to allow a casino to open during a period of inflation. That makes it downright reprehensible if you allow profiteers to take advantage during times like these. We can find better, more positive ways to utilize this space. One that allows us to have a bright future, not an economically depressed area in 5 years time.

This Casino changes the family-friendly nature of our part of town. We live in College Township, very close to the proposed site of the Casino! We are homeowners, parents, workers, and volunteers who are invested in our homes, this community and College Township. A casino is not the anchor business that attracts other great businesses to live, work and play. It hurts our property values and those around us. This is a terrible economic development idea, just absolutely horrific!

Please, please, please just say no!

Lisa and Lilliard Richardson
1285 Haymaker Rd.
State College, PA 16801
573-289-1557

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Kyle Volz <kylemichaelvolz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 11:52 AM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Public Comment - Category 4 casino at 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.

Hello,

My name is Kyle Volz and I've been a resident of State College almost all my life. A woman knocked on our door today letting us know there are talks of a casino opening at the address of the former Nittany Mall. Below are multiple questions I have about a potential casino in State College:

Why? We are given an opportunity to turn a large space into a community asset. Are casino's really an asset to our community? Sure, casinos bring in revenue for the county, add jobs and provide temporary enjoyment for visitors. However, most businesses in State College already do the above. And, most State College businesses provide revenue, jobs and enjoyment without the drawbacks of a casino.

I'm sure someone has already asked how State College would prevent the corruption, crime and the destruction of surrounding communities if a casino opened up. So instead I'm going to ask, why open up something so boring? Casinos are lame. "Welcome to my town, home of the State College casino!" is just so incredibly boring.

We can do much better than launching a flashy, familiar and boring building that benefit a couple rich people. Instead, why not turn the lot into affordable housing? Or maybe turn it into a community center? Or maybe a mix of both? Why not work with the local community to turn that lot into something people will permanently enjoy and be proud to say "I live in State College"?

Those are my two cents.

Best,
Kyle Volz

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Beth Resko <bgresko48@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 1:03 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Casino in Centre County

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

To whom it may concern:

I am extremely distressed about the possibility that a casino could be located at the Nittany Mall. It is ludicrous to think that a casino in our neighborhood could possibly enrich our community monetarily, culturally, or any other way, when, as shown in other similar situations, casinos are detrimental to communities and their citizens. I am vehemently opposed to the casino given its potential, again based on data from other communities in similar situations, for addicting the student population to gambling, for violent behavior, and for taking revenue out of our community rather than adding it. Also, there are already established casinos within easy driving distance to provide gambling opportunities for those who want them. PLEASE do not impose a casino on the majority of community residents who do not want it to be installed here.

Sincerely,

Beth Resko
College Township Resident

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Michelle Campos <michelle.u.campos@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 2:15 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Fwd: Concerning the proposed 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 note that this is the only response I ever received from Penn State regarding my email below.

I remain strongly opposed to permitting a casino to open in State College. As a professor, mother, and resident, I am convinced that this casino would be disastrous for our community, our students, and our families. I urge you to deny the permit request and keep Happy Valley safe, prosperous, and healthy.

Sincerely,
Michelle Campos

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Office of the President <President@psu.edu>
Date: Sun, Mar 20, 2022 at 8:27 PM
Subject: RE: Concerning the proposed Nittany Mall casino
To: Michelle Campos <michelle.u.campos@gmail.com>

Dear Professor Campos:

As Vice President for Administration and Secretary of the Board of Trustees I help President Barron and the Board respond to important issues. Thank you for your email and for sharing your thoughts on the proposed casino. I will share your comments with the President.

Sincerely,

Frank Guadagnino

Frank T. Guadagnino

Vice President for Administration

Secretary of the Board of Trustees

From: Michelle Campos <michelle.u.campos@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2022 8:36 AM
To: Office of the President <President@psu.edu>
Cc: boardclerk@pa.gov
Subject: Concerning the proposed Nittany Mall casino

Dear President Barron,

I am writing in response to a recent open letter published on StateCollege.com urging you to speak out against the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall. I would like to add my voice as a new faculty member, educator, parent, and community member.

We moved to State College in summer 2020, lured by the university's commitment to research and education and because we saw Happy Valley as a quality community in which to raise our two school-age children. Last summer, my elderly mother joined us in order to have more support in this stage of her life, and she was likewise charmed by the pastoral setting, public safety, and community stability that we enjoy here.

In December, I was shocked to learn that the College Township board had approved an investor's proposal to take over part of the Nittany Mall to build a casino. As I noted at the time in my email to the PA Gaming Commission opposing this move, the mall houses a county-sponsored senior activity center (which my mother attends regularly to play games and socialize), and it also serves as an informal exercise track for families and individuals during the cold winter months. Placing a casino there would ruin the community functions of the mall and directly endanger those populations that regularly use it.

More broadly, a casino anywhere in State College and the surrounding hamlets would pose a significant and irreversible threat to our community's public health and social welfare. As I read the minutes of the College Township meetings where this proposal was discussed and approved, I was puzzled to see that there was no *substantive* engagement with the very real social costs that this casino would impose on the city and its residents. Instead, the questions posed were entirely banal, including what kind of landscaping would be provided, the size of the parking lot, and how large the entry overhang would be.

Why did the township officials not raise pertinent, evidence-based questions about the impact of the casino on our community? Surely a town that houses the flagship state university could harness the power of scholarly research to better understand the risks and challenges of bringing a casino into the community. Since the township did not do so, I urge you as the university president, with a tremendous responsibility not only to the students, staff, and faculty of Penn State and their families, but also to the surrounding community, to respond to the evidence and oppose this casino.

Although this is far from my field of expertise (I am a historian of the Middle East), I spent a couple of hours on my Saturday morning reviewing the scholarly literature on casinos and their economic and social costs to the communities in which they are built. The literature is very uneven in time, scope, and method, but the overall assessment is clear and demands that we oppose this proposed casino for the short-, medium-, and long-term health of our community, our students, and our collective future.

The five main points are bolded, with relevant quotes and citations following.

1 – The Economic Benefits are Minimal to Nonexistent

While casinos are lucrative investments for the owners [due to the laws of probability, i.e., the house always wins], the wider economic benefits that are promised have not materialized in communities across the country. (There are possibly greater economic benefits in regions that allow multiple casinos to enter or in casino resorts due to scale and market size, but *not* in single-casino locations.)

“During the campaigning stage of the legalization of gaming, tourism development and economic growth were used as the “hook” for residents’ affirmative votes. As indicated by Hsu (1998), the economic impact of a riverboat casino in southeastern Iowa was limited. Economic indexes showed that the economic conditions of those communities seemed to be a reflection of the overall state economy, not the presence of the riverboat casino.”

- Hsu, Cathy HC. "Residents' support for legalized gaming and perceived impacts of riverboat casinos: Changes in five years." *Journal of Travel Research* 38.4 (2000): 390-395.

2 – The Socioeconomic Costs Far Outweigh Any Benefits

There is a clear assessment that the social welfare, public health, and community-born costs of operating a casino are far higher than the minimal economic benefit they bring. Notably, these costs are *not* born by the casino investors nor by the casino customers, but by all of us.

“Based on available numbers, costs [of allowing casinos] exceed benefits by a factor of more than 3:1.” This includes the social costs of crime, business and employment costs, suicide, illness, social service costs, direct regulatory costs, family costs, and abused dollars.

- Grinols, Earl L. *Gambling in America: Costs and benefits*. Cambridge University Press, 2004.

“The weight of the empirical evidence suggests that casinos do in fact impose negative social costs on surrounding communities, most notably, an increased prevalence of property and violent crime.”

- Kearney, Melissa Schettini. "The economic winners and losers of legalized gambling." *National Tax Journal* 58.2 (2005): 281-302.

“Upon careful review, the overwhelming body of research, indicates legalized gambling to impose more costs than any perceived benefit. In fact, tabulation of all external costs borne by society, proves the cost exceed the benefits of gambling by a ratio of two-to-one.”

- Barretta, Todd C. *The direct, induced, and external costs and benefits of legalized casino gambling*. Quinnipiac University, 2004.

3 – Specific Social Problems [Crime, Bankruptcy, Suicide, Compulsive/Pathological Gambling] Increase with Casinos

There is empirical correlation of statistically significant higher levels of a number of specific social problems in casino locales – most notably, crime, bankruptcy, suicide, and mental health gambling issues that contribute to additional ills such as domestic abuse. These are not community “fears” or “anecdotal evidence,” but widespread and documented problems.

“The results suggest that the effect on crime is low shortly after a casino opens, and grows over time. Roughly 8% of crime in casino counties in 1996 was attributable to casinos, costing the average adult \$75 per year.”

- Earl L. Grinols, David B. Mustard; Casinos, Crime, and Community Costs. *The Review of Economics and Statistics* 2006; 88 (1): 28–45.

Crime includes FBI index 1 violent and nonviolent crimes [aggravated assault, murder, rape, robbery; larceny, burglary, auto theft], as well as non-Index I crimes [forgery, fraud,].

- Grinols, Earl L. *Gambling in America: Costs and benefits*. Cambridge University Press, 2004.

Casino counties have 18-35% higher rates of bankruptcy than non-casino counties. Suicide rates of compulsive gamblers are 5-10x higher than the population at large.

- Grinols, Earl L. *Gambling in America: Costs and benefits*. Cambridge University Press, 2004.

“This study enumerates a prevalence rate of at-risk, problem, and pathological gamblers combined to be between 7.3% and 8.4% of the adult population.”

- Chhabra, Deepak. "Estimating benefits and costs of casino gambling in Iowa, United States." *Journal of Travel Research* 46.2 (2007): 173-182.

“These unintended negative consequences can include gambling disorders, a term used to encompass a spectrum of problems experienced along the continuum that incorporates the constructs of problem and

pathological gambling; family dysfunction and domestic violence including spousal and child abuse; youth and underage gambling; alcohol and other drug problems; psychiatric conditions including major depression, bipolar disorder, antisocial personality, anxiety, and attention deficit disorder; suicide, suicidal ideation, and suicide attempts; significant financial troubles including bankruptcy, loss of employment, and poverty as a direct result of wagering; and criminal behavior ranging from prostitution and theft to drug trafficking and homicide.”

- Shaffer, Howard J., and David A. Korn. "Gambling and related mental disorders: A public health analysis." *Annual review of public health* 23.1 (2002): 171-212.

4 – Seniors and Low-Income Households are at risk

The consensus of the scholarship is that gambling disproportionately attracts lower-income populations including seniors on fixed incomes. Likewise, gambling problems disproportionately affect these classes.

“The most dramatic increase in lifetime gambling occurred in the 65+ age group, from 35% of older adults to 80% . lower-income households spend proportionately more of their money on gambling than higher-income households. Given that some gambling revenue goes to the government (e.g., lotteries), these data encourage the view that gambling expenditures represent a regressive tax. Poverty often is associated with increased financial risk-taking, perhaps because of the psychoeconomics of gambling.”

- Shaffer, Howard J., and David A. Korn. "Gambling and related mental disorders: A public health analysis." *Annual review of public health* 23.1 (2002): 171-212.

5 – Teens and College Students are Particularly Vulnerable

It is no wonder that the investors would like to place their casino near Penn State University, as studies of gambling on other college campuses have found that the vast majority of students have gambled, with significant numbers of them gambling on a regular basis.

Moreover, there are a number of recent studies on teens and college students and the “epidemic” of gambling that outline the clear danger to individual students and to the student body as a whole. Habitual gambling among teens leads to a number of social problems, including alcohol and drug abuse, negative learning outcomes, eating disorders, and more.

“Students from six colleges and universities in five states in the U.S. (New York, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Texas, and Nevada) were surveyed concerning their gambling behavior and the rate of pathological gambling. Type of gambling varied by state, with students in the northeast and Nevada gambling more than students in

Oklahoma and Texas. Over 90% of males and 82% of females had gambled. One third of the males and 15% of females gambled once a week or more."

- Lesieur, Henry R., et al. "Gambling and pathological gambling among university students." *Addictive behaviors* 16.6 (1991): 517-527.

"College students from 2 Minnesota universities were surveyed about their gambling involvement. Gambling was reported to be a common experience, with 87% having participated at least once in the previous year."

- Winters, K. C., Bengston, P., Door, D., & Stinchfield, R. (1998). Prevalence and risk factors of problem gambling among college students. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, 12(2), 127-135.

"Long term trends, based on findings from twenty independent prevalence studies surveying middle and high school youth in North America, suggest that within the past year two out of three legally underage youth have gambled for money. In the United States and Canada as many as 15.3 million 12-17 year olds have been gambling with or without adult awareness or approval, and 2.2 million of these are experiencing serious gambling-related problems... Trends between 1984-1999 indicate a substantial increase in the proportion of juveniles who report gambling within the past year, and a parallel increase in the proportion of juveniles reporting serious gambling-related problems."

- Jacobs, Durand F. "Juvenile gambling in North America: An analysis of long term trends and future prospects." *Journal of Gambling Studies* 16.2 (2000): 119-152.

"The odds of being identified as a probable pathological gambler was high for men, those indicating a positive parental history for gambling problems, regular (weekly plus) users of illicit drugs, and those with poor grades."

- Winters, K. C., Bengston, P., Door, D., & Stinchfield, R. (1998). Prevalence and risk factors of problem gambling among college students. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, 12(2), 127-135.

"Students identified as problem gamblers, compared with other students, were significantly more likely to be heavy drinkers, report negative consequences of alcohol consumption, and be regular tobacco and marijuana users. Problem gambling was related to binge eating and greater use of weight-control efforts. University athletes were also found to have significantly greater problem gambling rates than nonathletes."

- Engwall, Douglas, Robert Hunter, and Marvin Steinberg. "Gambling and other risk behaviors on university campuses." *Journal of American College Health* 52.6 (2004): 245-256.

- Derevensky, Jeffrey L. *Teen gambling: Understanding a growing epidemic*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2012.

For all of these reasons, President Barron, I urge you to speak out against this proposed casino that so clearly goes against the interests of Penn State students, staff, faculty, and families and community members in State College and the surrounding area.

Sincerely,

Michelle Campos

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Laurie Jeffreys <lauriejeffreys59@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 2:22 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Cc: president@psu.edu
Subject: [External] Casino at 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.*

To Whom it may concern:

Although I am a graduate of Penn State (1983 PhD) and a 57 year resident of the State College Area (College Township 11 years, State College Borough 46 years) and I have raised five children here, putting them through the State College Area School District (of which I was a Trustee from 1975-1985) Penn State has chosen to disregard my letter to them of May 21, 2022 regarding the proposed casino.

Could it be that members of the Penn State Board of Trustees have a financial interest in this casino? Could that interest be disguised using other names? Would any University interested in developing young people to be contributors to a just society welcome this kind of diversion so close to campus?

Why, otherwise, would Penn State decide to remain silent on this issue?

Sincerely,
Loretta Jeffreys

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Susan McCartney <mccartneysusan20@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 2:32 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Casino in Centre County

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

I am totally opposed to the location of a casino in Centre County. I was a County Commissioner for 8 years in Mifflin County. In my first three months in office, the Prothonotary was found to have embezzled over a million dollars from the County and lost it all in Casinos in NJ and Nevada. I dealt with the ramifications of her gambling problem for the full 8 years of my term in office.

I currently live in Centre County and I would hate to see Centre County open itself to people losing large amounts of money that they do not have.

Please deny this license for a casino at the Nittany Mall.

Susan McCartney

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: andyy1@verizon.net
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 3:55 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Fwd: Nittany Mall Casino would be a pox on the culture & students of Penn State.

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.

Mr./Ms. Pa. Gaming Commission Board Clerk,

On 3/15/22, I expressed in an email to Penn State's President Eric Barron, now recently retired, & CC'd you, about my insistence for President Barron to decry your approval for the Nittany Mall casino, as is evidenced in the below email thread.

Subsequently, I rec'd a boilerplate/canned acknowledgement of receipt of that email to President Barron's secretary office, w/ no indication as to President Barron's stance on the casino license.

I feel President Barron's non-reply would be of interest to you, as it is shocking to me that he chose to remain silent.

Please deny the Nittany Mall casino license. It is the moral and ethical thing to do. You know that. I know that. And I know that you know that!

Sincerely,
Mr. Andy Yablonsky
Centre Hall, Pa. 16828

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

From: andyy1@verizon.net
To: President@psu.edu <President@psu.edu>
Sent: Tue, Mar 15, 2022 5:05 pm
Subject: Re: Nittany Mall Casino would be a pox on the culture & students of Penn State.

Dear Frank,

Thanks for your prompt reply, & for passing on my casino license comment email to President Barron.

Much obliged,
Andy

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

From: Office of the President <President@psu.edu>
To: andyy1@verizon.net <andyy1@verizon.net>
Sent: Tue, Mar 15, 2022 4:24 pm
Subject: RE: Nittany Mall Casino would be a pox on the culture & students of Penn State.

Dear Andy:

As Vice President for Administration and Secretary of the Board of Trustees I help President Barron and the Board respond to important issues. Thank you for your email and for sharing your thoughts on the proposed casino. I will share your comments with the President.

Sincerely,
Frank Guadagnino

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

From: andyy1@verizon.net <andyy1@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 3:12 PM
To: Office of the President <President@psu.edu>; boardclerk@pa.gov; andrewshaffer148@gmail.com
Subject: Nittany Mall Casino would be a pox on the culture & students of Penn State.

Dear President Barron,

As a '72 PSU alum, I implore you to please speak out undeniably, AGAINST approval for establishing a full service Casino @ the Nittany Mall, which, incredulously, would be a mere 3.1 miles from Penn State's flagship campus!

And, beyond my incredulity about the proposal of this sordid project, is that the man who is the Casino's chief developer/investor/promoter is one of us! He is Penn State alum & ex-Penn State trustee---Ira Lubert!

For Mr. Lubert to ignore, and instead aggressively attempt to befoul & stain, the elite culture that the Penn State's University Park campus has cultivated within educational/professional circles, is unconscionable!

Is nothing sacred to Mr. Lubert?

Dr. Barron, throughout your commendable 6 year term, you've continued in the tradition of those before you, to uphold the highest principles for a Penn State education, in so much that the Penn State educational experience is rated a "Public Ivy," rare air qualification for providing a high-class education, comparable to those of the Ivy League. Congratulations, Dr. Barron, to you and your administration on a job well done!

So, do not permit your good work to be stained.

I understand, Dr. Barron, that your decision to oppose a Casino license approval, may be fraught with anxiety, as you must have crossed paths with Mr. Lubert, in the past, in his Trustee and PSU support activities.

But, I must appeal, with all due respect, Dr. Barron, to your conscience. You know the right thing to do here. You must champion the sanctity of a Penn State education, and try to protect all students from corruptive forces in their formative years.

You must DISAGREE with Mr. Lubert on this matter. And in doing so, you will be held in the highest esteem by the vast majority of the university community, & the good citizens of Happy Valley. I guarantee it!

And, in my opinion, @ some level within Mr. Lubert, he will then come to understand, by your example, Dr. Barron, the true meaning of being Penn State Proud!

I look forward to your public announcement decrying the Casino license approval.

I wish nothing but the best of health and happiness, to you and yours, in your retirement.

Sincerely,

Mr. Andy Yablonsky
Centre Hall, Pa.

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: DONALD COLBURN <dcolburn135@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 4:25 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Nittany Mall Casino in State College, PA

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June 8, 2022

The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board website includes the words, “The Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act was designed to produce tremendous benefits for Commonwealth citizens through the legalization of casino gaming.” Then it talks about jobs and taxes paid to governments.

However, we must ask where that money comes from. That’s easy. It comes from people who lost at gambling. Losers at casinos pay for buildings, employees, taxes, and HUGE PROFITS that the owners take home.

What about the compulsive gamblers who no longer have a home to go to???

What about the criminal activity that increases around such places???

What about the poverty of the losers???

What about the stress on the families and marriages???

What about the cost for government aid to losers?

What about the cost of law enforcement and prisons?

PLEASE DENY THE LICENSE FOR THE NITTANY MALL CASINO THAT WOULD HURT SO MANY

IN THE STATE COLLEGE AREA+++!!!!!!

Don Colburn

135 School House Dr.

Howard PA 16841

Don Colburn - dcolburn135@comcast.net - (814) 482-1442 cell - 2 Peter 3:9 [ish] - The Lord ... is patient with us, reluctant to let anyone to be destroyed, but (instead wants) everyone to come to repentance. - Repentance includes changing your mind about God so that you believe - *that God is GOOD, super-smart and King of everything, - *that you sometimes refuse to obey God and are in trouble with God, - *that Jesus died to pay for your sins so He can rescue you from punishment. See Ephesians 2:8-10 "For by grace [God loves to do people a favor.] you have been saved [rescued] through faith [believing, trusting, relying on God], and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (NKJV)

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Joyce Hanscom <hanscomjoyce@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 6:20 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] I oppose 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.*

Hi,

I strongly oppose the casino plans for the Nittany Mall in State College. Gambling wrecks lives and families. My first marriage was wrecked by gambling. I don't know anyone who benefits from gambling other than the proprietors who run the casino. Please do not approve this proposal. I don't want to see more lives destroyed.

Thank you,

Joyce Hanscom
1350 Beaver Rd.
Julian, PA 16844

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Loviscky, Abigail Janae <ajl540@psu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 8:09 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] NO to the 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 stand in firm opposition to building a casino at the Nittany Mall. Having grown up in State College, this mall holds many fond memories for me. The last thing I would want to happen to it is it becoming a casino. Please respect the wishes of the citizens of State College.

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Edward Kaiser <edward_kaiser@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 11:09 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Opposition to Proposed 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.*

Dear Ms. Linda S. Lloyd, Director of Hearings and Appeals,

I would like to voice my opposition to the proposed Category 4 Mini-Casino in the former Macy's Department Store location at the Nittany Mall in State College.

My name is Edward Kaiser. My wife and I have been residents of College Township for the past 17 years.

I attended the August 16, 2021 Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board hearing. I was especially concerned by what Gaming Control Board member Sean Logan said.

"He (Sean Logan) said there is an ongoing problem the developers would need to think about: people leaving children in cars at casinos. "By the grace of God, a kid hasn't died yet," he said. "Every day I think we're going to get a call to tell us something happened to a child." He said in the past week, about 12 children were left in cars." (from WPSU article)

This is very troubling. Having a casino in our community is just not worth this danger. Please do not grant this license and help keep our community safe. Thank you!

Sincerely,

~Edward Kaiser

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Cindy Tier <kcshonor@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 10:06 PM
To: GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] casino in State College, PA

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

I am vehemently opposed to a casino going in the Nittany Mall. The crime in this area is low and a casino most likely will bring with it crime, child neglect, and gambling addictions.

When a parent is addicted to anything, there is child neglect if not worse. If for no other reason, please consider the children of parents who may be so addicted to gambling that their children may go without food so the parent can feed his addiction.

Sincerely,

Cindy Tier