
Kevin Law: Good Morning. My name is Kevin Law and I serve as Chairman of the Gaming Facility Location Board. Welcome to the Board's Capital Region Public Comment Event. Today we will take comments from interested members of the public on applicant proposals potentially affecting their region and their community. The Board has received a tremendous amount of materials between the responses to the Request for Applications and nearly 3,000 letters and e-mails from those in the immediate communities where these proposals have been made. We look forward to hearing more information about the region, the local communities, and the proposed prospects, projects that perhaps haven't yet been expressed. The first five, today is the first of three days in a row of public hearings, so bear with me so I could go over some of the ground rules.

The first five speaking slots per hour have been allotted to preregistered speakers who registered on the Website over the last ten days or so. The balance of each hour will be filled by individuals who just today registered to speak. They're being taken on a first-come first-serve basis. Each speaker has five minutes. You don't have to use all five, but you have up to five, and we're going to time you and we won't be rude but five minutes you're done. Everybody, it's a fairness to everybody. A lot of people have a lot of things they want to say so we're holding everybody to five minutes. Lets see, I told you about the visual counter, we're going to adhere to the clock. To allow for diverse participation, we respectfully request that interested Grassroots groups or formerly constituted organizations, if you could, maybe you want to designate a representative to address the Board. That would certainly be welcome. We anticipate more people will register to speak than time will allow, so we have also made available paper, slips of paper for you to address written comments that we will review. We want to remind everybody that neither the speakers nor the observers may disrupt or otherwise attempt to interfere with any individual opportunities to speak, and disorderly behavior is not going to be tolerated. All of us, we're all volunteers, we are going to treat you with respect and we ask you to treat us with respect. We're all adults here so we'll have a good hearing. And as I mentioned, we're all volunteers. You may see some of us get up or do something if have to attend to some other business throughout the day. Our fifth member is enroute, stuck in some traffic. I would like to introduce the fellow members of the Board here. Please introduce yourself.

Bill Thompson: Bill Thompson

Paul Francis: Paul Francis:

Dennis Glazer: Dennis Glazer

Kevin Law: Stu Rabinowitz will be joining us shortly and so with that, I want to thank you for coming. We're going to get to the first speaker and the first speaker is going to be Michael Fahey. And if we could ask everybody who speaks to introduce themselves, put there're name, if they're a member of an organization, and/or where they're from. Thank you very much. First speaker will have 5 minutes.

Michael Fahey: Good Morning gentlemen and thanks for this opportunity. My name is Michael Fahey. I live on Sagendorf Corners Road in Howes Cave, Town of Cobleskill, right up behind Howe Caverns. Now normally, I would be home watching this on you're Website, but I'm here today because if a casino complex is sited at Howe Caverns, I would arguably become the single most adversely affected homeowner in all of Schoharie County. And here's my story. I moved to Howes Cave from the Capital District area in 2010. It was to be the last big move of my life, where I planned to enjoy the rest of my days on my secluded little one acre in the country. And from my, from virtually any point on my property, I can look out across Howe Caverns backyard, sprawling fields often dotted with deer and turkeys, an occasional blue heron or a flock of geese overhead, and the tree-covered rolling hills of the northern Catskills provide a breathtaking backdrop. In a word, it's paradise, period. Then I saw Howe Caverns site plan and I darn near fell over, thinking well this could be goodbye paradise, because picture this now, their 10 acres project site wraps right around my property. My backyard and two side yards would be facing a casino, parking garage, parking lots, two hotels and everything else that goes with it. And out front, the traffic. A stream of visitors searching for the casinos main entrance, which according to the plans would be just an easy chip-shot away from my front door. Yes, the quiet world of this old retiree would be turned upside down leaving me with but two options. Embrace the construction of a miniature city and just deal with it, or throw up my hands, pack my stuff, move on, and try it again. Now am I a little upset by the prospect of moving all over again at age 65 after putting down roots for what I thought was the last time? Well folks, please don't be fooled by this calm exterior because you have no idea. It's not quite the way I scripted my retirement. But I'm not so blinded by anger that I can't see and appreciate the big picture here. I fully understand this is a business decision by Howe Caverns. Businesses are in business after all to make money, plus I'm been using their backyard, and it would be unfair for me to stand up here and just demonize Howe Caverns and not acknowledge what they've meant to the Cobleskill area for decades. In terms of employment, drawing families from across the country who pump life into local businesses and their long standing, largely unsung contributions to countless local causes. I could stand here all day complaining how this would impact me personally, but there's something much more important at issue here. The well-being of the entire Schoharie region. That chunk of the State which just three short years ago had so much snatched away by Mother Nature's cruel offspring, Irene and Lee. Families, farms and businesses alike all got sucker punched, twice, and to this day, many are still patiently holding out for some kind of economic life preserver. And I believe the wide-ranging economic benefits proposed by a Howe Caverns Resort and Casino could provide just that. Yes, it's about time the region finally got the chance to at least taste the meaning of prosperity. God knows they've paid their dues. So if you're keeping score up there, please let the record show that in spite of my mixed emotions, I support a casino at Howe Caverns. I say bring it on. Well there you have it, that's my story from ground zero. As they say, I'm sticking with it and I'm sorry for going over, but I thank you for your time and your polite attention.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Now if everybody could sort of follow the role that Michael did, in terms of model, state your name, where you're from and what your position, this day is going to go smooth. So let's try to stick to the model that Michael started and we're going to go right to the next speaker with Jeffery Meyer.

Jeffery Meyer: Well, hopefully I don't blow this. My name is Jeffery Meyer and I'm the attorney representing the group of Save East Greenbush. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak. Save East Greenbush is a not-for-profit that was formed and funded by the residents of East Greenbush and the surrounding area in opposition to this casino. There will two overarching themes in the brief five minutes. One is the materials that they have provided contain numerous inaccuracies and misrepresentations, and the second, even if you take everything they have as true it still doesn't fit the criteria for locating a casino. First of all, there is no local support. The local opposition to it has been vocal and consistent. The resolution that was supposed to have established this support is currently in litigation in Rensselaer County. The Town Board did not follow their own proper procedures. The decision was arbitrary. One of the board members that originally voted for the support was discovered to have an illegal conflict of interest, so she has now recused herself from all future discussions though her vote seems to have stood. Second, one of the other board members who voiced her support of the casino, upon actually reviewing the materials is now opposed to it and has come out so in public. The support just isn't there. She even admitted on the record, this is Councilwomen Matters, that she didn't have all the information before her. The casino folks have hid the information from the public and the Town Board. They are just trying to steamroll this through. Second, the casino resort doesn't comply with zoning. The casino itself is exempt, we're not going to argue that, but all the other amenities, you know this is suppose to be a resort facility, none of those are permitted under the zoning.. To do so, would require zoning variances, interpretations, and months before the Zoning Board. This process hasn't even started. It starts actually tomorrow, when the Zoning Board will finally hear and be able to interpret their own code. The residential buffer zone, which is where the proposal is to be located, is designed for low-impact agricultural, residential uses. Commercial uses are not prohibited in this zone, so the hotels, the conference rooms, the restaurants, the bars, the gift shops, the retail, anything, even the parking garages, are all prohibited in this zone. To enable that would require a zoning variances and months before the Planning Board and Zoning Board and rewriting the zoning law of the Town of East Green Bush. Further, even were they to get there, they would require a three-quarters of a vote of the Town Board because of the nature of this use, and the nature of the amendment. They don't have that. There's only four members of the board with one the members recusing herself, and another has withdrawn her support. Third, is SEQRA. The Town Board elected not to go through SEQRA at all when they enacted their support of the project. We believe that was in error. That's also in litigation. They just started the positive declarations. The very beginning. They haven't completed scoping. The scoping is the basis of the environmental impact statements. So they don't

even know what's going to be the environmental impact statement or what concerns are going to need to be mitigated. That again, is a year long, two year long process. We're into 2016. If you look at the criteria, the gaming law was designed to, for economic boosts, communities that need this type of development to further jobs and promote the resources. If you look at the demographics of the Town of East Greenbush, it has an unemployment rate of about 2.9%. That's as third of the state and the national average. The median home value for East Greenbush is \$200,000.00. The median individual income is \$45,000.00, with a median family income of \$80,000.00. So if you're looking at the information provided by the applicant, these high-paying jobs, if you're typical East Greenbush resident were to take one of these jobs and work at the casino, they'd actual take a \$10,000.00 a year pay cut. It's just a bad fit. To counteract this, the casino has offered jobs, 25% of all jobs to Albany, and offered \$11 million dollars guaranteed to the City of Albany. If Albany wanted a casino, they could have had their own casino. Instead they're trying to siphon off the benefits of other municipalities and not incur any of the detriments. If you look at the materials they've provided, the assessments and the reviews, the marketing analysis. The marketing analysis is premised on building a second Racino. Similar to what they have in Saratoga. Targeting the same group of people. They're not drawing anyone in from the outer area. They're not getting people in. This isn't going to be a resort. We ask the Board to consider this. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you Jeff.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Let the record reflect that we've been joined by Board Member Stuart Rabinowitz. Stu.

Stuart Rabowitz: Good Moring, I apologize for being late, I was driving (unclear).

Kevin Law: Okay, our next speaker will be Bonnie Kenna (sounds like).

Bonnie Kenna: As you know, I'm Bonnie Kenna. I'm a resident of East Greenbush. I've been a resident there for 27 years ago when my parents decided to move there. I decided about 10 years ago after grad school to move back to the community I grew up in and loved to one day to hopefully start a family. At this point, in conjunction, the fate of our town and the future of actually my life kind of falls into your hands, not to put too much pressure on you. But I'm here to wrap five months of a fight that we've been fighting hard for in five minutes. The first part to start on I'm kind of going with Jeff, is the casino, Capital View Casino does not belong in East Greenbush. It is possibly one of the worst locations that could have been chosen. For starters, we're one of the most affluent towns in upstate New York. We were just recently ranked in the top 5% of affluency. We are ranked at number 40 out of 861 towns and cities. We have, as was mentioned, one of the lowest unemployment rates, one of the lowest poverty rates, and some of the highest incomes. Our median household income is almost \$20,000.00 more

than that of the rest of New York State. It does not belong in our town. The location, like I said, is probably one of the worst. What hasn't been mentioned, is right to the left of the casino if you're facing the casino coming into the driveway 500 feet is Woodland Monastery School. Behind the casino will sit a long setting Girl Scout camp, where thousand of girls come each summer to camp out on. The other side of the casino, will be the high school, less than a mile away. Across from the casino is Regal Cinema where a lot of parents decide to drop their kids off and feel safe. I personally am against any tourist attraction let alone an adult entertainment center to be circled around kids. We're expecting thousands from the developers, thousands of strangers to come into my community. That takes a level of security-rate out of ours. The reason why most of live in East Greenbush, is the close proximity to the city with having that safety factor and being that close but yet feeling save. The other thing I want to mention is, as was mentioned by developers, a Wall Street Journal author did mention that we're second behind Compton in financially distressed cities. What wasn't mentioned in that slide is we're only second behind Compton, California, because it went in alphabetical order. The other thing that was missing from that slide, it was smeared out, was one sentence clearly why our town is in the fiscal state it is. The reason why our town is in the fiscal state was one sentence by the Wall Street Journal author, and it was after a New York State Audit, years of fiscal mismanagement and illegal employment contracts as well as illegal funds to town officials, is what put us to in over two million in debt. Our residents are some of the most financially-sound residents in the area, and as our towns mismanagement is why our town is financially distressed. The residences of East Greenbush are not distressed. Please don't gamble away our town for something that is potentially doomed from the start. The Wall Street Journal, the New York State Controller Bloomberg, Moodys, Fitch, all reputable sources. When I was going for my MBA, these were sources we were told to look at, not independent agencies that obviously are going to push for what they want. We look at these professional business articles, impressive news outlets, and they're telling us this is potentially doomed. When you have such affluent community as ours, I don't think any town should be gambled away, but you certainly don't gamble away that. I personally think if this casino is built, will be moving. I'm sure many residences will move. I don't want to raise a family in a casino town and I'm sure many people won't. So that affluency factor is going to go out the window. So the landscape of our town will significantly change if a casino is here. For the last, we've now sat through six town board meetings, one special meeting, two public forums where predominately that the people there are opposition. If you're from the Capital Region, you can't open up paper for the last five months without seeing our opposition. It's a weekly basis, sometimes a daily basis, from numerous sources. We're a strong opposition, there's no question where we come from, where we stem from, and we're not leaving. I please ask you guys to not gamble away our town. Thank you.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Thank you Bonnie. The next speaker will be Charles Stanner or is that Steiner? Steiner, I'm sorry.

Charles Steiner: Good Morning, I'm Chuck Steiner, President and CEO of the Chamber of Schenectady County, to the esteemed members of the Gaming Facility Location Board, I would like to extend my gratitude for being given the opportunity to address you today. The Chambers serves more that 1,000 members, large, medium, and primarily small business, located throughout Schenectady County with an employment of over 52,000 people, and is representing that business membership that I proudly stand before you and speak on behalf of today. The Chamber Board of Directors has unanimously endorsed the entire Mohawk Harbor Project with the Rush Street Gaming Resort Casino and Resort, as we need this investment in Schenectady. The Galesi Group is taking its 60 acre brown field that has little potential to ever be developed and turning it into a landmark destination on the Mohawk River in the City of Schenectady. When the Chamber was informed of the effort of the Galesi Group to include a casino at Mohawk Harbor with Rush Street Gaming, we promptly conducted due diligence though research, interviews, meetings with principles, chamber members, elected officials, not only in Schenectady, but in localities that already host Rush Street Gaming facilities. The Rivers Casino Resort is projected to generate millions in tax revenue every year for the city, county, and school district, the neediest school district in the Capital Region. Over eight million dollars annually in gaming tax revenue projected for the City of Schenectady and the County of Schenectady. Almost an additional seven million annually projected in property tax, sales tax, and hotel tax, which includes millions for the City of Schenectady school district. The conclusion by the Chamber was that the partnership of the Galesi Group with Rush Street Gaming developing a casino at Mohawk Harbor was a sound, professional business model offering an exciting major investment in the future of the City and County of Schenectady. The unprecedented investment of over \$450 Million dollars cannot be overstated and it's an investment Schenectady needs and has the potential to shift our entire regions economy in a positive way. Our research also indicted how Rush Street Gaming has an impeccable tract record when it comes to working with local business enterprises. At each of the three facilities, local business enterprises are an intrical part of the vendor services, and our participants in various rewards programs Rush Street offers, and the Chamber has been assured, that Rush Street Gaming will be doing the same in Schenectady. Minority and women-owned business, MWBE's also make up a large segment of Rush Street vendor base, and they have shown time and again, how much they value diversity, a trait that will serve many local businesses as well. Yes, Schenectady was once an industrial town but today our city suffers from high levels of unemployment, poverty, and our residences need the opportunity that was presented by Rivers Casino. Rivers Casino and Resort at Mohawk Harbor will create a estimate of 1,200 good, permanent jobs, with excellent compensation packages, job training, and advancement opportunities to its team members. Rush Street Gaming has pledged its support of the Schenectady County Community College byt working with the college to open job pipelines and training opportunities for students across numerous college programs, and working with area job placement and career development non-profits, to put the unemployed in the city and county and Schenectady to work, plus Rush Street Gaming qualified team members, in access \$5,000.00 in annual

tuition reimbursement towards whatever approach educational programs they wish to pursue. The Chambers confident Rivers Casino, which is projected to attract 2.8 million visitors annually, will be a driving force in the continuing revitalization of our downtown area and the fiscal security of the entire county demonstrated already with the agreements in place with organizations such as Proctors, a member of Fair Game Collation Group, and the Paul Mitchell School in Schenectady. In this research, the Chamber knows and cannot be minimized, that Rivers Casino and Resort will be an overwhelming community support and donate significant financial sources to local charities, not-for-profits, their employees as they donate thousands of volunteer hours. Once again, to you the members of the Gaming Facilities thank you for this opportunity to speak. In conclusion, I would like to say that we as the Chamber of Schenectady County believe sincerely that the Rivers Casino and Resort in Schenectady is ready and Schenectady is ready for that resort. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Next up is Larry Davis.

Larry Davis: Good Morning. My name is Larry Davis. I would like to commend the Board, you've got three days of these at 12 hours a day. Hope you've got some 5-hour Energy. I am the, I've been in business and a property owner in East Greenbush for over 20 years. As a matter of fact, I'm the largest taxpayer and property owner on Thompson Hill, the site potentially of one of the casinos locally. I am pro-casino and have been for a long time. My personal feelings are New York should of done this forty years ago. We lost a lot of money to New Jersey and Connecticut that we could of used over those years. I think some of the distressed areas of the state, particularly the Catskills had some wonderful resorts, I'm not sure that any of you are old enough to remember those. I think it would of saved a lot of those resorts if this had happened years ago. But it's great to see that it's happening now. There are billions and billions of dollars that we've lost to those other states that I think now we can at least to recover some of that. I was very happy when the majority of New York voters came out in favor of casino gambling in New York, as we know it. Despite that vote, there seems to be a very vocal minority of MNBES (sounds like) opposing, and you'll obviously keep everybody happy all the time. It's an impossible thing to do, but of the specific site locations, particularly East Greenbush, and I think you're going to hear over and over today from that group, that they oppose growth in that area. So some may say, you don't have to the casino, it's as simply as that. I think for the overall good, this is good financially for New York State. I point out that the government in the last century tried to legislate morality with the prohibition laws and it didn't work then, and I don't think you can legislate morality and I don't think it will work now. A dozen years ago, North Greenbush MNBES came to a meeting similar to this and voted down a Chip Fab plant. Very short sighted as it turns out. That Chip Fab plant wound up being located in Malta, New York. Those people did

not seem to be as short sighted, and that is the bigger driver of the economy in this area today. There were billions of dollars invested in that location. They employ thousands of people in very, very good jobs, and I would like to point out that opportunities like that don't come around too often. Opportunities like the siting of a casino don't come around too often, and when they do certainly as a business person I'd like to see those opportunities taken advantage of. I hope the Siting Committee will see through and beyond the selfish agenda by these different people and do what's right for the area. East Greenbush has an abnormally high property and school tax basis. I know this because as I was trying to develop some property in East Greenbush, I was told over and over by builders that the property values were diminished there because of the abnormally high taxes. I found this to be true. There is indeed, the government or the town of East Greenbush is a distressed-finally community. Different people have different reasons why that is, but it is indeed and it would be very helpful to the community to get the influx of cash. People have stated in here that you'll never see the jobs, you'll never the cash. A private business is willing to invest three hundred million dollars in your location. First of all, anybody that has three hundred million dollars to invest, probably has done a little research and has some knowledge of business. If they want to do that in my community, I'm 100% behind them. The people of Capital View Resort and Casino share my prospective on the local economy and community. They've a proven track record in Saratoga, New York, of working with the community and being a very, very good partner. They are familiar with the area, more so than any other applicant and we need this kind of experience and investment in the capital district and in East Greenbush. Lastly, I can say without a doubt that the location in East Greenbush is the best location for a casino in the capital region. They have a stunning view that I've enjoyed for many, many years, outstanding highway access, and the best marketability in the region. Hopefully, eventually stopping tax dollar, or potential tax dollars from leaving New York for the Massachusetts area, as they also look to get into the casino business. This will be a tourism draw from a wide area, and again I commend the Board on what they're doing here, and thank you for your time.

Kevin Law: Thank you Larry.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: As I mentioned earlier, so the first five speakers of every hour registered ahead of time and then we're going to go to another list for people who registered today. And so the first people who registered today for the 8:00 o'clock hour, Assemblyman Pete Lopez.

Assemblyman Pete Lopez: Good Morning Chairman and Colleagues. Thank you for letting us join you today and I understand the gravity of your task. I would tell you that all of here today are mission driven and we understand the significance, and I guess I would like to highlight by just reviewing a few key tenants. My name is Assemblyman Peter Lopez. I represent the 102nd Assembly District, which is parts of seven counties,

Mid-Hudson, Northern Catskills, Southern Tier, part of the Capital District. Much of my region – rural. Much of region, northern Appalachian, farms and forests, small communities, beautiful. But for those who live in those areas, we understand that our socioeconomic status is much more like that of intercity. So if you look at the demographics, lack of educational attainment, under employment, percentage of persons in poverty. Our demographics mirror those of intercities. The percentages from a percentage basis. So our challenge, and you heard one of my colleagues, one of my neighbors speak passionately about this, is that our region continues to suffer despite the best efforts of the current administration, despite the best efforts of my colleagues, persistent poverty and under employment, all these things are factors, so as we visit this issue, this experiment if you would, I go back to the legislative intent, which we debated intensely on the floor of the Assembly prior to two successive passages of the legislature, and then the vote, the popular vote and referendum and then subsequently with numerous public hearings. Ultimately, the Governors intent, which we subscribe to, all of us here, is to stop dollars from leaving New York State, to keep economic investment in our home communities and to make sure those dollars reverberate through our towns and villages. So as we look at that intent, as you know, much of the weigh-in criteria, deals with economic impact, 70% if I may, of other criteria. So economic impact can be looked at from several ways. The gross dollar amount, what is the gross amount and how many dollars you're bringing in. The other aspect of economic impact, which I would subscribe and submit to this body, is what does it mean at the margin. What does it mean for the people in the affected community? How effectively do those dollars translate into improvement and quality of life, into improvement for the region? And I would submit to you based on what I suggested about the economic status, that this investment at Howe Caverns, which I'm here for and I'm shamelessly wearing my shirt here, and you can see on the back. Thank you. Is that the impact at the margin for this region, can be a game changer. And I would say to you that this region has been suffering a war of attrition for decades. We've placed interstates through it, we put water and sewer infrastructure, we've worked to expand with programs, Empire Zone, Start-up New York. All of those will have an impact, but at this moment this particularly proposal can have significant impact for the Schoharie region. Monstrous impact and at the margin, will have, even if the dollar amount may be even less than others, which we were not quite sure of the total amount, no one can know other than speculate. We anticipate that this could meaningfully lift this region up economically. A few other items, if I may. When we talk about community embracing, and all of us are advocates of home rule. We believe that it's the policy and decision making should come from our homes and families and businesses. Schoharie County's stance on this has evolved. Not everyone endorsed originally. But everyone has had a chance to be part of a recent conversation or walk if you would a journey, an evolution that has brought this county to embrace this proposal almost to every last woman, man, and child. We have a bus load of people here. You can see the shirts they're wearing. You heard my neighbor Mike speak passionately. People have come at this with mixed emotion, but they understand the significance of what's being considered here and they understand the benefit that this can bring. Location, location, location. You hear that all the time with realty, real estate, and when

you think about our region, we are positioned, we are a gateway, we are the gateway to Leatherstocking Region, we are a gateway to the Northern Catskills, we are the gateway to the Adirondacks, we have interstate access, two interstate exits positioned on either side of the campus. We have a 200-acre campus which buffers and insulates the facility from the rest of the community and gives an opportunity. The last point, and this is most critical. This was brought up during the State Hearings at the Empire Plaza, it's a destination. It's not a one-shot, one-location, one-instance deal. This is a destination. So that's the strength of it. So thank you sir for going over time, I appreciate the consideration. God Bless you. Thank

Kevin Law: Thank you.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Thank you Assemblyman. Next speaker, Vince Casale (sounds like)

Vince Casale: Vince Casale from Otsego County. A neighbor of Schoharie County and I'm here today to speak in support of the resort and casino at Howe Caverns. I believe the Board has a very unique opportunity to create a real regional destination. The Otsego-Schoharie County area of New York has often times gone unnoticed when it comes to looking at our State regionally. We've heard of the Capital District, we've of Central New York, the Mohawk Valley, the Southern Tier, the Hudson Valley, the Catskills, and all that seems to surround an area that has gone unnoticed when it comes to some of the economic benefits that the other regions have enjoyed over the years. With an already existing destination in Howe Caverns that sees 200,000 people every year, with the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown that sees 400,000 visitors each year, and looking to have record banner years coming up with some of the inductees, as wells as Baseball Dreams Park, ski resort to the south, you have a dynamic where you have a separate, a lot of separate entities by bringing in a resort destination of this size to this region, it would successfully bring together all of those entities to create, I believe, a very successful sub-region that would not only be supportive of the community as you will hear I'm sure over and over again, the benefits to the direct community, but also be able to support the other regions around it. I think it's also important that, and I know that these questions came up during the presentations a couple of weeks ago, but to take into consideration the cannibalism of Saratoga who has a successful operation. The proximity of Howe Caverns versus the other sites and the proximity to Saratoga, does really make it the least cannibalistic, This region will only support so much, in terms of gaming and again, when we look at the support for the region as a whole, when you look at the Howe Caverns working in concert with the gaming already going on in Saratoga, again it really does support and help the entire region. The last point I would like to leave you with is, I would challenge you to find another project, at another region that has the overwhelming support from the people who live there, the people who work there, and the people who will benefit from this region. We have seen overwhelming support from everyone involved in the project, everyone that will be affected by the project, even people who

could arguably be negatively affected, are in support of this project. We believe it would be a game changing opportunity, not just for Schoharie County, but I certainly as a resident of Otsego County, can see already the potential; impact it could have there, and to create that sub-region and help our entire State. Thank you very much.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Thank you Vince. The next speaker is Lynn Crowe (sounds like).

Lynn Crowe: Thank you for the time gentlemen, I appreciate it. My name is Lynn Crowe. I live in Cooperstown, New York. Beautiful, if you haven't been yet. I drive often between Albany and Cooperstown for work, and I drive up and down Route 20, and I see the devastation that has happened to some of these people, and I see that some of my friends in yellow shirts and their homes, and I think how do we help them? You five have the opportunity to do that. You can actually help these people. Some of these people don't even have jobs and frankly, you have the opportunity to give them the economic benefit that they need, that they want in this area. These people either took the day or came here to show you how much they want this. They want this casino. You're going to hear all day long. They want it. It is our time to have an economic boom in this area. For me, as I've driven up and down Route 20 and I see these folks, sometimes I want to pull over and knock on their door and say, What can I do to help you? Because it really is heart wrenching to know that they haven't been hit once, twice, twice, so I will not take up to much of your time, and I'm sorry that I am so emotional about it, because I do believe in this project, and I believe in the opportunity the five of you have to bring a community back. Howe Caverns is an amazing place with 200,000 people that visit it a year, frankly. It's not in the middle of nowhere. It's in the middle of a beautiful place, with beautiful people who need jobs. We need jobs. You have that opportunity. So we support it, I appreciate your time and at the end of the day, we hope you support it the way that we do. It is our time. Thank you very much.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Thank you Lynn, thank you for your passion. Next is Valerie Owes.

Valerie Owes: Good Morning, how are you? My name is Valerie Owes. I'm on Sugarhouse Organized Committee. I'm also an Environmental Service Attendant at the Sugarhouse Casino in Philadelphia and I have worked at Sugarhouse since 2010. I would like to share some of my experiences with you so that you know what kind of company this really is. In April of this year, I had just came back from a vacation, I went into my EVS Managers Department and saw around George, my director, and my manager. They were sitting down, I said hello, I'm back. Instead of greeting me, I'm very emotional on this part, I said hello, I'm back, instead of greeting me after I entered my managers, he started singing a song, and the words were monkey Val. I was hurt and shocked, asked if I heard him correctly, unfortunately I had, my director did not say a thing. I did report,

expect to encounter this type of disrespect at this point in my life, but unfortunately this is a part of realty working at Sugarhouse. Disrespect is one of the major reasons that my, me and my coworkers organized, are organizing a union. The company's response has only been to bully us, for example, just recently on Labor Day at 6:00 o'clock in the evening, two co-workers and I were passing out Union stickers to customers outside the front door, a security manager and an officer came out and began to watch us. We continued talking to the customers and asking for their support. Security came up and asked us to leave the property. We responded that we understood that we were acting within our rights. The security manager just repeatedly that we had to leave the property and he said that if we didn't stop passing out the stickers, that we would be treated like any other unruly customer, the police would be called on us. Sugarhouse has repeatedly violated our rights and made threats in order to intimidate us and to interfere with our organizing. They have created a culture of fear and intimidation in which many co-workers are afraid to even discuss the Union, because they are afraid of being fired. I thank you for this time.

Kevin Law: Valerie, if I missed you, if I missed this, I apologize, What company were you speaking about?

Valerie Owes: Sugarhouse.

Kevin Law: Sugarhouse.. And which particular casino?

Valerie Owes: Sugarhouse Casino in Philadelphia.

Kevin Law: Yes, I know, but which one here. Oh, the Foxwoods one. Thank you very much.

Valerie Owes: Thank you.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Next is Brittany Swiger (sounds like)

Brittany Swiger: Hi, I'm Brittany Swiger. I'm a Banquet Server at the Rivers Casino, Pittsburg. I've worked there just over two years. I appreciate the opportunity to tell my story, because I think my story and the stories of my co-workers really show what kind of company Rush Street Gaming is. I'm fighting for a Union at the Rivers because I've seen that this company does not care about its workers. When I started working at this company in the Banquet Department, we did not have a machine to clean our dishes, and we did not have enough glasses to make it through a dual-function. The managers would not schedule a steward to wash the glasses. This meant that during Banquets when as a server, my responsibility was to serve food and drinks to my guests, to give them the most exceptional service I could give. I was in the back soaked washing glassware and

we didn't have the property equipment. So, it was also very dangerous. We told our managers over and over again that this was unsanitary and a safety hazard, but that didn't do, they didn't do anything about it. One day, one of my co-workers had cut herself doing glassware during a banquet. She was so injured, she went to the hospital and she had received stitches. She came back to work afterward to finish her shift with a wounded hand. She was very upset. We were all so outraged that someone had gotten hurt doing something that we knew was dangerous that everyone who was working got together that day and went to our managers to demand to fix the problem. Now we have a dish machine. Stewards are scheduled to wash dishes during our busy banquet hours, but it took someone cutting their hand open for the casino to finally listen to us. We shouldn't have to be injured to get the supplies we need to do our job. Also in banquets, the majority of our income comes from the gratuity on parties. When I started working at the casino, we were never informed on how much a particular party would pay so how that it would be split between the servers who were working. You got a paycheck and that was it. We would have to guess what our paycheck was. This lack of information made it impossible for us to know if we were being paid correctly and impossible to plan a budget. And there were incidents of discrepancy in paychecks. We asked for months for a log or a book with the records of gratuity, but our manager said it wasn't something they could do. It wasn't until we got together as a group and asked for it that we finally got a tote book that we have now today. We have a place where we can see what our income will be, but the company is frequently really slow to update it. It is sometimes, we have to wait four or five days at time to figure out what we had made from a function. Thank you for your time.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Thank you Brittany. And just a clarification on the prior speaker, Valerie, I had asked her a question, it was related to the Rush Street Gaming in Schenectady, not Foxwood Mohegan. Our next speaker from the registration list of today is Rosora Valanuwava (sounds like).

Rosora Valanuwava: Members of the Commission, my name of Rosoro Valanuwawe. For the past three years I have a dishwasher at Rivers Casinos

Kevin Law: Take your time.

Rosora Valanuwava: My husband is a cook at the casino. When I was at a different job before I started working at Rivers, I had suffered two miscarriages because I wasn't on light duty while I was pregnant. I was so glad when I started working at Rivers because I thought I would never have to go through anything like that again. I now have a twenty-one month old son but once again things didn't go smoothly at Rivers. To my shock, I was also denied light duty. I had to lift boxes and push heavy carts. Thank goodness for my co-workers helped me out. They watched out for me and made sure that I didn't have to lift anything too heavy. I was scared but I am happy to report that my son was born

healthy, but my worries weren't over. When I went to HR to get him on the company health insurance, they told me I wasn't able to enroll him until there was an open enrollment period, which was ten months away. When I asked, What am I suppose to do in the meantime? They told me to go to public aide. This make me very angry. My husband and I work very hard along with my co-workers, we help make Rivers a very good profitable casino. Why can't they provide us with coverage good enough to cover my child and why would they tell someone with a new baby to just to go to public aide. That's all. Thank you for your listening.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Next speaker is Christopher Tauge (sounds like).

Christopher Tauge: Good Morning gentlemen. First of all I want to thank you for the service to your service to New York State. This is a very important decision. Hopefully at the end of my time I'm going to help you make your decision a little bit easier. But anyways, my name's Chris Tauge, I live in Schoharie, New York. I was one of the people that Lynn was talking about. Back in August of 2011, I lost everything I owned from Hurricane Irene. I was lucky because I was able to secure a good job at a young age to be able to live in my community. Not so lucky for many others. There's still a lot of people in our community, and when I talk about our community, I don't just talk about Schoharie or Cobleskill. There are sixteen other towns in our county. All, every part of our county in some way, shape, or form had damage because of Irene and Lee. Folks were displaced. We already are one of the top counties for unemployment in the State of New York. Most of our folks have to travel thirty to forty miles to work. So, a project like this means so much to us. Not just the construction jobs, but the permanent jobs that would be in the resort and casino, and that's one other thing I want to hit on. This project has always been about the people of Schoharie County. It's not about the developer, it's not about the gaming company, although we think we have the two best in the business, it's been about the people. That's why we have so much support. They understand, they totally understand the jobs that this will bring, the other things that can come after this, but again, I bring you back to the resort thing. We are the only location that can put a viable resort. You hear the other sites, none of those are really a resort. They say there're a resort. A hotel is not a resort. At Howe Caves, we have Howe High Adventure, we have Howe Caves, the cave system, and when this resort and casino comes in, we're going to have two water parts, indoor/outdoor. We have people that flock to the Schoharie Valley but only seasonal because of all the farm markets and everything. We have so much to offer to this whole region. So it's not just about the casino. The casino would be great. It's going to supply jobs, but it's an actual destination resort. And it's something at the end of the day that you five folks here can be proud that you made a decision to pick Howe Caverns Resort and Casino. I'm telling you, all these folks in the yellow shirts here, they didn't just come here for the fun of it

today. They took their time off of work to tell you that we're resilient, we're hard workers and we'll make each and everyone of you and the Governor of the State of New York, very proud at the end of the day when you pick Howes Cave Resort and Casino. God Bless you and thank you.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Nice job Chris. Now we go back to, we're into the second hour now, now we're going back to the folks who preregistered, and the next five speakers have all preregistered, and then we'll go back to the other list of those who registered today. Dwight Jenkins.

Dwight Jenkins: Good Morning. My name is Dwight Jenkins and I'm here to speak in opposition to the siting of a casino in East Greenbush. Not so long ago a prosperous entity to the north faced a rather sudden change in circumstance. As Ronald Reagan allegedly once said, if you want to create controversy, change something, and sure enough, there was controversy. A lot of it, with behind the scenes maneuvering, forging of alliances, threats, and then costly battles widely reported. But then there was a change of strategy. It became obvious that the only way to survive was to push south and unite two entities into one, and that is exactly what happened. On August 2, 1990, Saddam Hussein pushed powerful armored columns into Kuwait. You thought I was talking about something else. But parallels to East Greenbush are eerily similar, especially to me since I was there in 1990-1991 waiting to invade my own little piece of Kuwait with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit. This is in no way meant to insinuate a comparison between the horrors of Saddam Hussein and the leadership of Saratoga Gaming and Raceway, but the motivations in both cases are almost identical. Economic survival. Saddam had just fought a costly eight year war with Iran and needed Kuwait's oil revenue. SGR had just found out the casinos were coming to threaten their profitable Racino and they took additional casualties when the people of Saratoga reject them in their own city. What to do? Look south. They settled on East Greenbush far enough away to remain viable but close enough to retain continuity. The two would become one. The developers outlined their reasoning in their application, estimating up to a 50% reduction in the Racino's gross gaming revenues should a casino come to the Capital District. This is why the former head of the gaming association and a partner in SGR seeing the writing on the wall, argued so vehemently against the gaming act last year. It's also why he teamed up with Churchill Downs to bring a casino to East Greenbush. It was never about us, the people of East Greenbush with our high median income and low unemployment. No, it was always about keeping the wanted SGR Empire alive. East Greenbush is the host community physically but also metaphorically. Something to feed on. If there was any doubt about that, it was a race before this very Board two weeks ago in Meeting Room Six, when you asked the other developers about the economic impacts their projects would have on Saratoga Racino. The question that should be asked is, what about East Greenbush? What will your project do to East Greenbush? That's the one that we're all afraid of and that's what we have nearly 1,100 Facebook followers and 3,000 No

Casino Petitions. Speaking just for my own little piece of East Greenbush, Thompson Hill Road, I can tell you that the fear is palpable. Home improvements have been put on hold and several of us will most certainly move if you grant a license to Capital View. Who wouldn't? Would you want to live 300 yards from a three hundred million dollar casino? Is there any place in the Capital District in the State of New York with a project of this magnitude so close to a neighborhood? And with property options, we already know about, my property could actually butt right up against the casino owners PDD, literally right in my backyard, and I'm not the only one. There are 11 residences that will be gravely impacted by this project. Eleven homes, eleven families, some with small children, some with teenagers, some with widows who have lived there since John F. Kennedy was President, and yet the residents of Thompson Hill Road are almost never mentioned except in passing. It's as if we don't even count. As if the planned cul-de-sac will mitigate all the negatives, noise, light, traffic, decreased property values, crimes, drunks, gambling addicts, wandering up and down our little country road at all hours of the day and night. Who's looking out for us? Kuwait had the power of the US military, we have a cul-de-sac. And let's not forget the obvious; the homes are so close because the entire hill is zoned residential buffer. Hotels, bars, warehouses, parking garages, restaurants, none of these are permitted uses in our ___ and yet you're seriously considering allowing just that. Who would think of such a thing and who would allow such a thing in such an unlikely place as Thompson Hill Road. If you haven't read Fred LeBrun editorial in the Times Union yesterday, you owe it to yourselves to do so. He perfectly undresses the illusion that we're an appropriate site. I would like to close a little poem I wrote about sunset in East Greenbush from my home. It's called a Simple Choice. In the simple beauty of the city at sunset and the glow of an earth that has issued amnesty for the remainder of the day declaring apples instead of missiles, unveiling blue and pink instead of billowing smoke and choking ash of funerals, running on grass wet with September's evening dew instead of other fluids, tragic past. This is how I chose to view the night upon me falling. You have a simple choice, please make the right one. Thank you.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Thank you. Elizabeth Wade.

Elizabeth Wade: Okay, thank you. My name is Elizabeth Wade and I'm speaking today against the proposal for a casino in the Town of East Greenbush. I'm a property owner in East Greenbush and my residence is in neighboring North Greenbush. Chairman Law, during the presentation by Saratoga Harness and Churchill Downs, you asked about the opposition in East Greenbush and I would like to address that because the spokesperson for Saratoga Casino and Raceway answered that she did not know where the opposition was coming from. Back in April as it became public that the town was trying to usher in a casino with no public input, there was a spontaneous, impassioned, wide-spread uprising of opposition which was not flamed by outside influence but rose up as a heartfelt resolve to not let this injustice be foisted upon our community. The opposition

in East Greenbush is coming from the residence of East Greenbush and the surrounding area who will be greatly affected by this sighting of the casino in our community. Some might argue that the opinions of the neighboring townspeople are not important. I however, I would like to point out that the casino is going to impact the entire region, the entire community, not just the residence within the boundaries of East Greenbush. My home at the time of finding out about this project was half a mile away from the casino site, and though I was in North Greenbush who's located closer to the project than most of homes in the rest of East Greenbush. The opposition in East Greenbush is coming from the residents and is strong, because Capital View Casino is the wrong plan for the wrong place. We're loud and we are forceful because we are determined because Thompson Hill Road is quite simply a spectacularly ridiculous place for a casino. I have the map here and I don't know if you're looking there, I do see that you do have the copies of the map. It's surrounded by a girl scout camp, a Montessori school for kindergarten to eighth grade, a nursing home and rehabilitation center of 80 residents, and of all things our local high school, Columbia High School. Columbia High School is located eight-tenths of a mile from the proposed casino site. In other words, it is within walking distance. Cut through the soccer field that you can see behind this school there to the north and over Mannix Road and you're there. The eighteen-years olds in attendance at Columbia High will be able to leave school and run over to gamble legally at the casino and get back to school in time for the bus, though they're probably driving. Let's not talk about the kids that will obtain fake ID's to do so. There're currently over 1,300 students enrolled at Columbia High. Who would think to build a casino next to a High School with 1,300 young people on the precipice of adulthood. Is that a plan that makes sense for our children? These students come from well-beyond the boundaries of East Greenbush. They come from the Towns of North Greenbush, Nassau, West End Lake and Schodack. All of them being bused to one high school. Potentially next door to a new casino. Shouldn't the parents in those towns also be allow to have a voice? Does the East Greenbush Town Board speak for them too? Does the Mayor of Albany care about our students? The casino will shred the very fabric of our community. Saratoga economical analysis fails to address the cost to our community which will come from problem gambling, and our youth are most at risk. Studies show rates of problem gambling among adolescents exceed those of adults. Adolescent gambling has repeatedly been shown to be related to other substance abuse. Other adolescents with gambling problems have been shown to experience increase delinquency, antisocial behavior, criminal activity, and the disruptions of relationships that negatively affect overall school performance and work activities. These behaviors lead to serious psychosocial and economic cost to the individual, his or her family and society. Research indicates adolescents are about three times more likely than adults to become problem gamblers. Studies also show adolescents are up to five times more likely to develop the gaming related problems than adults. Please do not let this developer prey upon our youth. Placing a casino in such close proximity to our high school is putting our children in harms way. Another major issue you can see by looking at the map is that we're suburban area and unlike a more urban setting where patrons can walk or easily use public transportation to go to and from the casino. In our neighborhood they're going to

have to drive. They will be sharing the roads with our kids and with our townspeople. They will leave the casino and get on our roads, the same congested roads our young people are driving. The same road our school buses are using. The developers may argue that this is a short distance from the casino to Exit 9, but even so that same corridor is used by everyone else traveling. We do not want or need these sorts of serious impacts on our town. I've more to say, but I'm out of time. Thank you very much for your time.

Kevin Law: Would you please point, Miss, would you please point us to Thompson Hill Road. Which is Thompson Hill? To the East of 4?

Elizabeth Wade: What I would like to say this (unclear)

Kevin Law: Thank you. Next up, Leesa Perazzo.

Leesa Perazzo: Good Morning to the members of the Gaming Facility Location Board. My name is Leesa Perazzo, and I am a member of the Schenectady City Council. It's my pleasure to speak in support of Rivers Casino & Resort. When the City Council voted to support Rivers Casino & Resort at Mohawk Common, excuse, Mohawk Harbor, we had a public comment event similar to this one, and though ours didn't last quite 12 hours, we made sure everyone had a chance to be heard, and took into consideration not only their comments that night, but also their e-mails and their phone calls. And I'm glad the same thing is happening here today. The City Council came to its consensus in part because this team, Rush Street Gaming and the Galesi Group approached our community with respect and open ears, and since day one, they've made every effort to ensure the casino will enhance our City and our region. I'm intimately involved in downtown revitalization and efforts to attract tourism dollars to the Capital Region. I was very impressed at the lengths Rush Street Gaming went to in making sure Proctors and other downtown businesses in Schenectady would benefit from the casino. They have had the support of the Fair Game Coalition and will be working with Proctors to offer ticket packages and promotions at the theater to patrons. Proctors is a major player in Schenectady in the entertainment scene. It annually draws 650,000 people. That's a huge boost to downtown businesses. I'm confident that with Rivers Casino nearby, it will sell even more tickets and draw even bigger shows. In fact, I see Proctors as the lynch pin in what Schenectady will become with the addition of Rivers Casino, a cultural and entertainment destination for the entire region. Thanks to promotions already arranged and in the works, visitors to the casino will also be encouraged to patronize area businesses. And since Rivers is the only application situated near a true downtown, it is also the only project that can truly be expected to have this positive uplifting affect on existing business. I know Rush Street has formed partnerships in many areas including with the Mohawk Golf Club in Schenectady, and they will be having local businesses operate in the casino. Though my conversation with Rush Street, I know the company has already had success with these strategies in cities like Schenectady, such as Pittsburgh. Their properties have achieved awards like Best Overall Gaming Resort, and every single one draws in more business than competition. That's why I'm confident about the numbers

shown here. Our city and county government and our school district face a budget crisis every year. But more importantly, our residents are heavily overtaxed. That's why the City Council as well as our partners at the Schenectady County Legislature pledged to use these gaming revenues toward property tax relief. We know if our residents are to have full rich lives in our community, they need a path to employment, a way to own a home, and a community support system that has the buy in of major businesses. Rivers Casino and Resort checks all three boxes. Thank you for taking the time to hear from me and from the entire Capital Region. I know the Board will award the license to the best team with the best proposal and the best plan to help the community in the region. And in my humble opinion, that's Rivers Casino and Resort. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Next up is Philip Morris, the individual.

Philip Morris: Old joke.

Kevin Law: I'm sure you've heard it all.

Philip Morris: I've heard it all. Will it get me elected to office some day, not at all.

(Laughter)

Philip Morris: Thank you for the chance to speak and for your efforts. I'm Philip Morris and I'm employed as a CEO of Proctors, the Capital Regions performing arts centre. But I'm here today as the volunteer chair of the Upstate Theater Collation for a Fair Game. A group of all of the thirteen municipal or not-for-profit performance facilities with a 1,000 seats or more, or greater, that serves the citizens within all three of the gaming regions being considered in this process. Fair Game formed about a year and a half ago as the Governor and Legislature were refining the final bill to approve the Gaming Referendum. Each of us had heard in Fair Game from colleagues from around the county detailing the negative impacts experienced when confronted by gaming. And particularly when that gaming included substantial live entertainment options. But we also joined with a clear goal of supporting the Governor and the Legislature and to advise each of what we had learned by engaging with our peers. We sought to refine the gaming application expectations so as to improve the likelihood of long-term community success. This was an unprecedented collaborative effort, an upstate-wide collation working together to ensure access to the Arts for all New Yorkers in a changing world. We knew we represented the interest of millions of citizens and patrons, but we had not convened or worked together ever before and the prospects for success seemed initially quite slim. Specifically, we noted to the Governors office that gaming impacted local entertainment facilities in three ways. Gaming facilities changed where the community entertainment

dollars were spent, even if live entertainment was not substantial. Where gaming facilities live entertainment, there was significant changes in where performers performed. This resulted from an industry-wide standard date and location exclusivity, often 100 miles and 100 days. In other words, performers who performed at gaming facilities almost never again performed in the art-type of facilities. And finally, three things change. How a gaming facility would begin may not indicate where it would be even a few years in the future. By way of example, we noted that 25% reduction in live events at Chase in Buffalo, the result of gaming facilities at nearby Niagara Falls, and even greater impact was experienced by downtown facilities in Hartford, Connecticut, and Providence, Rhode Island, due to Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun. The Governor and the Legislature heard our message which resulted in strong language in the RFA, which was further clarified and strengthened in the written public question and answer process that your Commission provided. To require negotiated relationships between gaming applicants and impacted entertainment facilities. The goal was to protect significant public and philanthropic arts entertainment investments and to support those investments through the gaming efforts. Our collation evolved and made presentations to every gaming applicant in each of the three regions. We developed four ways to work together for mutual success. First to declare and agree on a scale of intended live events by the gaming applicant. Second, to support a mitigation payment should that anticipated level of activity change significantly. Third, to establish regular and consistent communications regarding bookings and coordinating entertainment options within the community as well as to ban the use of exclusivity agreements. Fourth, to support the local facilities through modest participation and a fund designed to support the Fair Game Facilities and to support smaller local arts activities through a competitive grants process. We are pleased to say, that in the three regions, twelve of the sixteen gaming applicants have signed Memorandum of Understanding with us. The process of getting to those agreements have been different in each case, in some cases, the gaming applicant altered plans for live entertainment significantly. In some cases, we made decisions to communicate regularly in a manner we had never considered before. It's not a success yet. We must wait and see which applicants are selected. We need to see a few as the Siting Commission can help us reach agreements with the other four should any of them be selected, and finally we need to see if the MO used, we have developed will result in firm agreements as selected applicants bring projects to _____. Here in the Capital Region, we have MO used Howe Caverns, Rivers Casino, and Hard Rock. These agreements represent the compromises and concerns that we believe were anticipated in the original RFA. We feel strongly that we can work with these applicants. We also feel strongly that we, Proctors, the Palace, Times Union Center, SPAC, the Trod Music Hall in Saratoga Sidney Center, our regions, collaborators will continue to collaborate in these agreements. It's been a remarkable effort and we appreciate you giving us a chance to shape our future.

Kevin Law: Great, thank you Phil.

(Clapping)

Male: Which four have not signed?

Philip Morris: East Greenbush has not signed, Saratoga in the Catskills has not signed, Cordish has not signed, and one other in the Catskill. I apologize, but I'm prepared for it when I come tomorrow to the Catskills presentation.

Kevin Law: Thank you Phil for educating us on something at least I was not aware of. Thank you.

Philip Morris: Great, thank you very much.

Kevin Law: Our next speaker, Karine Carreau. Did I get that right? Close?

Karin Carreau: Close, it's Karin. Thank you, thank you for hosting this opportunity to share our thoughts regarding the casino gaming in New York. My name is Karin Carreau and I'm the Director of Policy for the National Association of Social Workers, New York State Chapter. I am here before you on behalf of four other mental professions along with ours, the New York State Association of Marriage and Marriage Therapist, the New York Mental Health Counselors Association, and the National Association for the Advance Placement of Psychoanalyst, another unprecedented partnership. I represent over 11,000 licensed mental health providers spanning the spectrum of disciplines of licensed social work, mental health counselors, marriage and family therapist, and psychoanalysts. Throughout the develop of casino gaming in New York, our organizations have been working together to identify ways in which we, as licensed mental health providers, can help prevent an increase prevalence of problem gaming, and being available to those in our communities who may need problem gaming treatment. We believe it is prudent for New York State to prepare for a potential increase in the demand for treatment. As such, we've recommended the State develop and invest in a comprehensive strategy for prevention, identification, and treatment of problem gambling. An investment in treatment is only one component of a strategic plan, however. In addition, we need to layer the investment throughout New York, not merely in just the areas where the casinos are located. New York should invest in public service announcements on responsible gaming, awareness of the indicators of problem gaming, and the identification of qualified licensed mental health providers trained in evidenced-based interventions are key components of a comprehensive strategy. In addition, we recommend that New York diligently review the responses to ensure that successful applicants cited have illustrated a strong commitment to the prevention and treatment of problem gaming and have sound policies and the corporate infrastructure to partner with New York on any problem gaming issues that may face our communities. As there is a correlation between problem gambling and mental health and substance abuse issues, it is critical that New York mental health professionals anticipate and prepare for the growth of problem gaming among our State's residents. Data indicate that similar to substance abuse disorders, problem and pathological gambling can indeed be addressed through

treatment. In an effort to meet the projected clinical needs associated with an uptake in problem gambling, the New York State Chapter of National Association of Social Workers, the New York State Mental Health Counselors Association, the New York State Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, and the National Association of Advancement of Psychoanalyst propose a collaborative with the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services to develop a comprehensive, multi-discipline, multi-year training curriculum rooted in best practices for the sole purpose of readying our state's mental health workforce. Such a curriculum would be created using evidence-based practices in emerging clinical data focused on the multi-faceted range of biological, personality, developmental, cognitive, and environmental risk factors of problem and pathological gambling. Curriculum would be delivered through in-person training institutes, Webinars and print materials with follow-up clinical support. In addition, a specialty certification would be created to verify that competence of clinicians to deliver such services and a comprehensive evaluation tool would be utilized to monitor the programs effectiveness, relevancy and application feasibility. In 2013, the National Association of Social Workers, the New York Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, the National Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis, and the New York Mental Health Counselors all actively supported enactment of Legislation establishing continuing education requirements for this State's mental health professions licensed under Article 154 and 163 of the Education Law. Hence, over the course of the next two years, all such licensees will be subject to participation and continuing education requirement. As these professionals begin participating in such educational requirements, it will enable them to adapt to the State's changing mental health landscape. Prioritizing focus on a continuing education curriculum specific to problem and pathological gambling will proactively prepare the workforce and optimally stem the anticipated depth of the impact of casino expansion. At a time when New York is moving to expand gambling opportunities, it is increasingly important to acknowledge the potential for additional patterns to emerge in our State. Our four organizations, unlike any others, have the capacity to reach such providers in rural, suburban and urban communities...

Kevin Law: Times up.

Karin Carreau: Trained, we stand ready to partner with New York and approved applicants.

Male: Would you just tell us the casinos you favor and casino you don't getting a license.

Karin Carreau: Are there casinos, I can tell you that we have....

Male: Proposals you favor and proposal you don't.

Karin Carreau: I can tell you that we have had very good interaction and engagement from Rush and very good interaction and engagement from Caesars. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. I didn't realize so our time is different, we have to press this at the same exact time. Okay, very good. I haven't always been doing that. I go to one list, and then I forget to do the clock. Alright, so we've got to synchronize this. Alright, now we're back to the people who registered today. Glenn Witecki.

Glen Witecki: Good Morning. I'm Glen Witecki and I practice law in Schenectady. Some years ago when I was telling a client how long I had been practicing law, she informed me that I didn't need to practice anymore because I was already good at it, but nevertheless I continue to practice. These are my thoughts on starting the casino. Schenectady, first born child of General Electric Company, abandoned child of General Electric. Schenectady, child of American Locomotive Company, orphaned by them as well. Schenectady, home of suffocating school and property taxes, place where more houses are demolished than built. Schenectady, on the come back trail, where infrastructure has been rebuilt, where new technology occupies old factories, and where Proctors Theatre has anchored an incipient downtown renaissance. Place where an able developer and astute casino operator have partnered to bring a striking crescent marina to the old fur trading capital that became a locomotive factory and now a brown field. And now as it rises from its ashes, it seeks the blessing of a license. It's culinary and casino programs at the community college invite those seeking entertainment and respite to visit Schenectady. Come by train and walk across the street to the casino. Come by highway where the exit ramp is one minute from gaming. Come by boat and anchor in a magnificent marina that is on the casino site. Come by air to the county airport's ample runways but a few minutes from the complex. Come to Schenectady around the bend from Albany. Schenectady Gateway to the rest of Upstate New York. Schenectady, a place that has paid its dues and best fits the siting criteria governing this Boards decision. There once were five men on a Board who inciting casinos were both master and lord. They listened to logic and pondered the plans, and when taking their vote, said YES to Schenectadians! Thank you.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: That's pretty good, we have two poems so far. That's very good. Thank you. Our next speaker will be Ron Bailey.

Ron Bailey: Good Morning, I'm City Councilmen Ron Bailey, City of Albany, Third Ward. I am here representing the minority wards in the City of Albany, and we stand here in support of Hard Rock Café in the City of Rensselaer. As the ranking sponsor of the resolution to Hard Rock for Rensselaer, I come with twelve votes out of fifteen Council Members, and as we known, our Mayor has decided to join East Greenbush. She will be speaking later today. But just to let you know that I'm here representing the people of the lower five wards who voted in the City of Albany when Proposition One

put a casino, because we want jobs, we need jobs. You know, our City has a \$18 million dollar deficient and our people are not getting jobs. We've got economic developments going on but everybody outside the city is working at those jobs and not the people in the City of Albany, and those neighborhoods, you know, we're the poorest city of most. Any given day, you can come in my district and my ward and see people picking up bottles and cans. Just this morning a young mother was out there picking up bottles and cans so we can get milk for her baby. We need jobs. Hard Rock Café has offered us jobs, 25% of the jobs that they might have to offer. We might not even get 25%, but if we could one person a job, we're happy because that's what it is about. Jobs. I'm not concerned about the money they want to give the City, I'm concerned about the jobs for the people, because our people are suffering and they need jobs. We're going into a budget session right now and we're already talking about layoffs. So we're talking about more people that's going to be looking for jobs. Hard Rock is shovel-ready and they have their own finances. So we talking about if you grant them this site, they can be open in a year and we can have people there working. That's the most important thing. Jobs. And not only through the casino, because if you grant it to them, you're talking about down in my district, which is the third ward, and I happened to have all the hotels in downtown Albany, and all the restaurants. You talking about they might have to hire more people to add people on if the business is working right. So I'm here today to speak in favor of Hard Rock in the City of Rensselaer. I support them and my heart goes out to the rest of them, because I know the struggles that they go. I've been watching, but I also have to think about my district and my city. I'm here today supporting Hard Rock Café in the City of Rensselaer. Thank you and Gentlemen, Vote Hard Rock.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Thank you. Okay, who's next? Stefan Masic.

Steven Masic: .Good Morning Gentlemen. My name is Steven Masic, and I'm, I have two hats in this thing. I'm a member of Laborers Local No. 157, and also serve on our Schenectady County IDA Board. Let me start with a Union aspect thing, as Rush Gaming has already come in and said, Hey, we're going to build local. They signed an agreement with our Trade Councils to build with local people. That's awesome. They've already signed with our hotel workers, so when that hotel is open, we've already got local people there. Not only is that site shovel-ready, there're already shovels in the ground. For economical standpoint, 15 years ago, you didn't want to take your kids there, through downtown Schenectady, but with the foresight of many people, just to mention a few, Mr. Buicko of the Galesli Group, Ray Gillen, our Director of Economic Development and his team, Charles Steiner of the Chamber of Commerce and his members, Philip Morris, CEO, all came together and said, Hey, this is the city of light, we can't let the light burn out. We've got to bring it back. And they're doing a very good job. I drive through it everyday on the way home and it's a bustling neighborhood again. With this casino we're going to bring more economic development. It's going to drive more infrastructure repair. Regardless, our City Council and our County Legislature have already promised

tax relief, that's where this tax money is going to go. So when we bring, the median income for these jobs is forty-something thousand dollars, that's life changing money to people in Schenectady who don't have anything. We have a brown field that Rush Gaming has come in before in Pittsburg and brought these sites back, built casinos, energy efficient, minority based suppliers, which will come and build ___ casinos to supply, so there're more and more jobs coming. So I'm here to ask for your support and your vote and to grant the license to the Galesi Group and Rush Gaming. Thank you very much.

(Clapping)

Male: You may not know the answer to this, but how do you respond to the complaints that we heard about Rush Gaming labor issues at other casino.

Steven Masic: Well, the only thing I can tell you, I don't, I feel their pain, but I don't know their issue. All I can speak about is I know they have already come in and signed with the hotel workers here. So apparently they're trying to avoid the labor issues here in New York. Like I said, they have already signed with our construction trade council to build it. That's local jobs for local people. I'm happy that they came in and said we're not going to being in an out-of- town contractor, we're going to build it with your guys here because you know the area. This benefits us right from the beginning. They haven't even been issued a license yet and they're already coming to us and saying, Hey, we're going to come help.

Male: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Next, Ron Williams

Ron Williams: Can you hear me know? How are your doing, I'm Ron Williams. I'm a volunteer Firefighter. I also work for our County Highway Department, and I am a volunteer coach. I coach youth from fifth and sixth all the way up to modified and varsity football. I ran for office for the last couple of years for Town Councilman for Cobleskill and my whole thought is, I grew up in Cobleskill and Schoharie County. I spent my school years in Cobleskill, my summers in Schoharie and Middleburg area, because I have family all though the county. I've had family lose things and family who's been laid off and fortunately, I found a job, one of little jobs that you could have in Cobleskill where you don't have to travel, and you can kind of live off a little bit. But, for everybody else, there's nothing there. I know you've this story and you're going to hear it all day long, there is nothing there. Most people that live in Schoharie County, when you look at the maps, they've got to travel from there to over the Schenectady and

Albany to work. In order for them to live they have to travel that far to work. They're losing money with gas. Youth wise, kids that are graduating and stuff, there is nothing there for them to stay. You're seeing more families move out of the area, more For Sale signs going up. There's nothing there, they can't afford it, taxes and everything else. A casino coming into Schoharie County would be huge. It would help them out. It would help people stay in Schoharie County. Also, it might even bring people into Schoharie County with the beautiful sight. I don't know if you guys have been through Schoharie County, but take the time and go through Schoharie County, just to take the sights. It's beautiful; it's a very beautiful place to live. Not as beautiful as it was before the flood, but it's still a beautiful place to live. Look at the guys here, I mean I personally took a day off today just to come here. These guys here, everybody here, all blue collar guys, we're all blue collar, we work hard and most of us hold two or three jobs. Like I said, oh, I also DJ too, I'm sorry. But that's my second job. A one time I was holding four jobs just to pay my rent and stuff. It's tough. Like I said, I see Schenectady and Albany and all that, and I do have friends all from that area and things, but I saw the poster here with partnership with Proctors Theatre and all that, and like I said before, all those businesses, there're plenty of jobs out there for people. Schoharie County, we have Howe Caverns, we have the County Highway Department, we have nurses. There isn't much there. We have the State University but like I said, if only somebody loses a job, you're not going to get a job there. We need more. There's nothing there. So, I hope you guys can make a decision and look at the big picture and help us out in Schoharie County and help us rebuild. Thank you for your time.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Thank you Ron. Tricia Moses.

Tricia Moses: Hi, I'm Tricia Moses. I'm a resident of Schenectady County, _____ casinos at Howe Caverns. We are close neighbors to Schoharie County and we've seen first hand what they've gone through and they just need an opportunity. Their opportunities have landed in Schenectady, and Albany, and Rensselaer. But Schoharie needs this opportunity, and if you give them this opportunity, they'll take it and they will make you proud. They'll make something and they will save themselves, but they need the door opened and they need this opportunity. So we would appreciate your support and thank you very much.

Kevin Law: Thank you Tricia.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Next up is Kim Wilsey.

Kim Wisley: Hi, I'm Kim Wilsey. I've lived in the Schoharie County all my life. I went to Schoharie High School, I went to Cobleskill High School, I now have two

children that go into the Cobleskill School District. Over the last few years, obviously we've had the flood and everything, but the school systems, they're losing good teachers, their losing programs and books and with my kids going in there, I feel like that with the casino coming in, you know, the tax breaks and the funding that could come from this are just going to keep benefiting us, not only with the jobs but giving our kids a chance to get some of the funding that goes other places. You know, Schenectady and Albany, they have such big districts and so many kids and they get this funding, and we have such a small district and it's like they forget about us, and we don't really get as much as our kids deserve. We have a great college there and they get people from all over the world. I've meet somebody that comes from Japan to go to our college. It's such a great neighborhood, a great community. We have all these towns around us and they're all just kind of dwindling away. Everybody's moving and there is just nothing there to keep us up and I feel like if we get this, we have a chance. I was lucky enough to work at Howe Caverns. I work there and I love that I get to be in my field but a lot of the kids that I went to school with, they come out to Albany and they come out to Schenectady, and move completely out of New York because it's just, there's nothing there holding us. So I feel like if you guys give us the chance, like everybody said, we're going to show you that we really want this. We're hard working and we deserve a chance. So thank you very much.

Kevin Law: Thank you Kim.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Shane Strong.

Shane Strong: My name is Shane Strong, born at Schoharie County Community Hospital located in Cobleskill, resident of Schoharie County all my life. I was fortunate to find a job 26 years ago in Cobleskill. I just recently went to my class reunion. There might of a total of four people that still live in this area. At the age of 16 I joined the Cobleskill Fire Department, Junior Department, and 18 was voted in. A member for 19 years, very active. Just fought a structure fire last Tuesday morning at 4:00 AM where the family lost everything. We are for this casino. We need this casino. It will bring jobs, there will be revenue, and help us replace a fire engine that we respond. It's a 1975 American LaFrance. It's a front line pumper that we protect the Village of Cobleskill. With the casino, we will get help to replace that pumper. We have had spaghetti dinners, pancake suppers, car washes, and a drive to help replace this pumper, and we haven't received a lot of support. The casino will support helping us replace a pumper. I drive through East Greenbush, Rensselaer, Schenectady. I do not see 39 year old engine respond to structure fires. We need this casino. It's our time. Thank you.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Thank you. Alright, we are doing great. Thank you all for bringing us back on schedule and now we are actually five minutes ahead of schedule. So, we are going to take a two minute break, and with the 10:00 speaker, we're now going back to, we'll time ourselves. The 10:00 speaker is David Giacalone. Is David here? He's not here. Is James Flanagan here? James, you're going to be first up, unless David shows up. There is three minutes left on this clock, so we're taking three minutes. Okay. Just a reminder for those who weren't here earlier, we have people who registered, the first five speakers at the top of every hour were preregistered, then we go to a second list of people of people to registered today to speak. You're limited to five minutes and there is a clock in front of you which will indicate how much time you have left. The next speaker is David Giacalone. The floor is yours.

David Giacalone: Thank you. Hi, I want to thank the Board for letting me speak on behalf of the Schenectady casino group. We believe that there are much better choices than putting this casino in Schenectady, and unfortunately, I can only give you a summary of my summary in my five minutes. We're submitting a 20-page statement today that has a lot more detail. We're also submitting a Petition with a few hundred signatures opposing. We believe that there are a number of things that are unique to this situation and this location and they all point toward giving this license to someone else. First, this is the only location out of the four that already had a giant development project on its way working forward, going to exist whether or not if there's a casino. We believe you should put it someplace that was going to be a empty lot, and not one that had the biggest project that Schenectady has every seen and one that was supported by the community and applauded and awarded. There will be brown field meditation whether or not there is a casino. There will be a beautiful mixed-use development along the Mohawk, whether or not there's a casino, and Schenectady already has a very vibrant and powerful development structure and strategy as the democratic website says, They've been over \$800 million dollars worth of investment in the last ten years, over 6,000 jobs created. Put it someplace where they don't yet have that kinds of a vibrant development success. This is also the only location that threatens a wonderful treasure of a historic district which is the Stockade Historic District. The Stockade is only a half of a mile away. It's the oldest residential neighborhood in the nation, with the biggest concentration of buildings over 200 years old in the nation, and we believe that the inevitable traffic and the extra crime that is going to happen because of this, is just way to much of a threat for such a gem, in fact when the Mayor isn't putting in the casino, he calls it Schenectady's Gem. It's a wonderful place to live. I live there myself. The applicant says, Oh Well, we have a casino in Philadelphia and it got safer there. Well it got safer, it didn't and it did. A fourteen man Philadelphia patrol is dedicated solely to half a mile within that Sugarhouse Casino, and what it did was push a lot of crime about a half a mile away. It had much more car break-ins and car theft, and we think that that sort of crime is not worth the risk. We also believe that the people, the leaders of Schenectady County have not respected the vote that happened in November of 2013. When you go into the voting booth, you don't have to worry whether your boss is going to insist that you say Yes to a casino. And you don't have to worry about whether or not

you're getting a job or not. You can go in there and after a long public debate about casinos, say what you mean. Schenectady County is the only county out of the three where the majority of people said No to a casino. And the towns that are supposedly supporting it, their Supervisors wrote letters of support in spite the fact ___ more than 25% in, I'm sorry, a margin of 25% between those who said Yes and No, a margin of 15% in Glenville, between those that said Yes and those who said No. With No being the majority. Show some respect to the fact that the people who aren't pushing jobs have thought about it and went to the polls and said No, we don't want it. And I tell you, if you don't want it anywhere in Upstate New York, you don't want it a half a mile away, right down the road. So, I think you can get more bang for your buck somewhere else. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you David. Next up, James Flanagan.

James Flanagan: My name is James Flanagan and most of my titles are former. I'm former Councilman for 24 years in North Greenbush, former Supervisor, former Councilman, and I also, I think someone earlier mentioned how North Greenbush fifteen years ago voted against the Chip Fab, and I was one of the two votes on the Town Board in favor of the Chip Fab, so I guess my credentials as a MWBE are terrible, and I just preface my comments with that. Back in the year 2000 when I was North Greenbush Town Supervisor, we were approached by a group of parents, educators, and board members, looking for a location for a Montessori School. They saw the site that was easily accessible for students from throughout the Capital District. However, it also had to be rural enough for the environmental education using the discovery methods pioneered by Maria Montessori. I put the in touch with the person who owned a parcel of land on the North Greenbush-East Greenbush border. The site turned out to be an excellent match. A year later at the groundbreaking, they announced the name that described their new site. The Woodland Hills Montessori School. Now I fear they may have to rename it Casino View Montessori School. The reason I'm telling you this story, is to illustrate the importance of municipal land use regulations. So many laws and master plans are not simply obstacles for developers to get around. They are also a commitment to the existing property owners. Whether you're a Montessori school student, a set of parents sending their daughter to a girl scout camp, or a young family whose home represents the largest purchase they will make in their lifetime, zoning and a master plan should give you some assurance about the character of the neighborhood where you planned your future. Similarly, the State Environment and Quality Review Act should provide a structure for existing property owners, developers, and town officials to weigh the pros and cons of potential changes in land use. SEQRA should not be rushed or done in secret behind close doors or hidden from the public. The attitude towards SEQRA for the Capital View Project was best illustrated before this Board when Daniel Gary of Saratoga Gaming and Raceway boasted that the SEQRA review for the Racino took only one month. It's further illustrated by the East Greenbush Town Board, which took five months before even starting the SEQRA process. Saratoga Gaming and Raceway having been rejected by their home town, quickly located a site in East

Greenbush that's totally inappropriate for a casino. The town master plan and zoning law had designated the land as residential buffer which is defined as being low density residential, agricultural, rural, and open space uses. Into this zone, Saratoga Gaming and Raceway want to force a casino, hotel, restaurants, bars, a 600 space parking garage, two additional large surface parking lots, and a 58 square feet of warehouse space. I realize that zoning issues do not typically fall within the privy of this Board, however, you should be aware that the proposed Capital View rezoning is based on two things. Number One is the state law allowing casinos to preempt local zoning, and Number Two is a suggestion in the Request for Application promulgated by this Board, that casinos should also include hotels, restaurants, and other amenities. While state law can clearly override local zoning, and RFA issued by a state agency has no such overriding authority. If the Town of East Greenbush attempts to allow Capital View to get away with this abuse of the law that decision will most assuredly be challenged in court. This Board is establishing a goal of casinos opening within twenty-four months of being granted a license. In its presentation of the Board, Brian Davis stated that Capital View would be able to open a casino within 18 months of being granted a license. That is pure fantasy. In the June application to the State, Capital View claimed that they would complete SEQRA rezoning site plan review and subdivision by November 2014. In their August rezoning application to the Town of East Greenbush two months later, that completion date had been pushed back to May 20, 2015. Even that revised dates not realistic. The town did not even start the SEQRA process until this month. Capital View has not even submitted a storm water management plan despite the fact that storm water has historically been one of the most complex issues facing developers in the Route 4 corridor. The Economic Impact Study done by Spectrum Gaming Group is highly biased and would require extensive scrutiny before being accepted. Capital View has only provided superficial information on the cost and social impacts of problem gambling and gambling addiction. One law suit against Capital View is already in the Courts and as mentioned above, additional legal challenges can be expected if the Rezoning Application is approved. If you award a license to Capital View, there is no way they will be able to untangle this self-created mess in 24 months. This Board should put an end to this fiasco and award the Capital District casino license to a more needy and more deserving community. Thank you.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Thank you James. Joseph Aposee (sounds like) No? Going once, going twice for Josphe Aposee. Alright, next up is Lorraine Weiss (sounds like).

Lorraine Weiss: Hello, my name is Lorraine Weiss. I've most of my life in East Greenbush. I would like to thank the Gaming Commission for the opportunity to speak today regarding the siting of the casino on Thompson Hill. I'm convinced that this is the wrong place for a casino. This site is zoned as a residential buffer for all of the following reasons: It's next to a small road with approximately eleven houses. The eastern area is bordered by a 50-year old Girl Scout Camp, which I would like to add that I attended as a

child. At the northern edge is a Montessori School. Nearby to the south is the local high school. On the site itself, there is a major aquifer, federally-protected wetlands, a possible historically archeological site, and there's an abundance of wildlife and much more. The SEQRA for this area has yet to be done; in fact it is in the very early stages. No one knows how much of this area is impacted by the casino and its adjacent areas such as massive paved parking, roadways, a parking garage, a hotel, restaurant, and any other out buildings planned. There's also the question of water and sewer in this area. The town has had a moratorium on building over the past few years because of the sewer system being inadequate. There is an upgrade currently taking place but with the increase usage by the casino, it's unclear as to whether the casino would make it unlikely that expansion of other future projects would be affected. Additionally, the fact that this property is adjacent to the girls scout camp is appalling. I as a parent would not send my child there. There is a real problem with traffic on Route 4 around that area. The Route 4 corridor is very congested at rush hour. This 24/7 casino would do nothing to alleviate it. I'm not saying that I'm for or against gambling; this is purely an inappropriate siting. There is also the fact that East Greenbush does not fit the criteria of a town in financial distress. Recently we were ranked 40th most affluent town in New York State. Rensselaer, Howes Caves area and especially Schenectady fill the requirements of areas in financial need. The median income in East Greenbush is \$78,000. The money problems in East Greenbush were created internally by the Towns Government mismanagement of funds. In the town there have been several meetings with the residences at each of those meetings. The majority of residents spoke out against the siting of a casino but the town board went ahead and voted on it. Since the initial vote, one member has changed her vote of support because of continually changing of size and scope of the project by the developers. There is a second Town Board member who's forced to recuse herself due to a conflict of interest with a family member profiting by this siting. The developers have downsized this project twice. The hotel which started 300 rooms changed to 150 rooms, and now is 100 rooms. The 20,000 square foot retail area is now 500 square feet. The entertainment venue and multiple restaurants have changed to one steak house and a much smaller entertainment venue. It feels as if the developers have indeed pulled a Bait and Switch tactic. The developers indicate that there have been many meetings with the residents in the changing of the size. This is not true. The first downsize showed up in the application and the second downsize appeared at the presentation to the Planning Board.. Many of the residents have expressed a distrust of the developers because of the way this plan has changed into a small local casino with no ability to bring the millions promised to the town or ultimately the state. There are so many reasons not to site this casino in East Greenbush, I'm asking you to please consider a town or city in real need that actually fits the criteria and desires a casino. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

(Clapping)

Lorraine Weiss: May I also suggest that you visit the sites if you haven't seen them. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Gary Greenberg

Gary Greenberg: Thank you for this opportunity and for your volunteerism in this very tough subject for you. I know it will be excruciating and be some people that will be happy and some that won't, but, you have a tough road ahead of you and I appreciate that. I'm Gary Greenberg. I'm a minority owner of Vernon Downs. I live in the Capital District, so I'm going to make my presentation here today. As you know, New York State will be the only State where Racinos weren't migrated to full casinos. In every other state that has gone to full casino, the Racinos that were operating in that state were migrated. New York State, that isn't going to happen, so what you're going to have happen is you're going to have some Racinos be competing directly against casinos. I mean there's no doubt about it. And that's going to be up to your choice where you put these locations. It's going to be the key whether some of these Racinos close or they don't. And that's a fact. I want to start on the southern tier in Tioga Downs. I am minority owner of Vernon Downs and Vernon Downs is subsidized by Tioga Downs, and currently Vernon Downs shareholder equity is \$29 million dollars in deficit. So that's a fact and we need Tioga Downs to get a casino. Now there's two other bids out there, Traditions. If Traditions gets a casino, then that will hurt Tioga which will hurt Vernon. If Wilmot gets a casino, then my prediction is Vernon Downs will close. It's too close, it will zap away our customers. If you look at the application, Wilmot states at 50% of his revenue will come from operating facilities in the State. I don't think that was the intention of the Governor to have a casino open up and take 50% away from other operating facilities in the State. To me, he wanted tourist to come in. So if you take Wilmot \$260 million dollars he says he's going to make, 50%, that's \$130 million dollars. To me, Saratoga makes \$160 million dollars. You don't need Wilmot. You need Vernon Downs, a racetrack that has been in existence for 61 years. It's a beautiful racetrack. I know Mr. Gorwell make a presentation to you stating that it was one of, it is the nicest harness track. So we need that casino in Tioga Downs. Now it's important to remember that some of these people that are going to come before you, they're going to give you numbers. Now the New York Gaming Association had a hearing in December of 2012, stated that the Racinos would provide over a billion dollars in education for the State. That did not happen, and it won't happen. So you have to be careful when people tell you numbers. I believe that some of the numbers are overstated. They never can be met, and I just told you Wilmot. I consider two, probably two applications are reasonable on their numbers, and that's Tioga Downs and Howe Caverns, and I state that based on my knowledge of 25 years of being involved in Vernon Downs and my family being about 51 years in Vernon Downs. Also, I have to say that Saratoga, the Racino, has done

an excellent job in operating that Racino, and I'm not sure people here or in the Capital District, they voted against in the November vote, and that's important, you have to look at that. You have to consider that vote. Capital District, they voted against it, the majority of the counties, and I think they voted against it because they like what's going on in Saratoga. They like going to the thoroughbred, they don't want anything to interfere with that. They like the Saratoga Racino. They have those choices. That's an option. You're going to have to decide some of these applications don't meet the needs, don't meet the needs of what the Governor wanted. He wanted tourist spots, Upstate New York, in communities that needed it. We wanted the Racino owners, we wanted the nine Racinos to get the casinos. The Governor said No. If he just wanted income, it could of went with that. We could have been opened up already and you could have had income coming in. He didn't want that. He specifically wanted resort destination casinos.

Kevin Law: Times up.

Gary Greenberg: Okay. Thank you for your time and I appreciate it. Good Luck

Kevin Law: Thank you.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Okay, now back to the list of folks who signed up this morning. First speaker, Anthony VanGlad.

Anthony VanGlad: Thank you, there's a lot of yellow out there today and all that yellow is in full support of a casino, which is a great thing. Let me introduce myself and also thank you for having this public hearing to listen to everybody's concerns and situations. My name is Anthony VanGlad. I'm the Supervisor for the Town of Gilboa. Gilboa is located in southern Schoharie County. As one of sixteen Supervisors, I was elected to the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for 2014. I'm fortunate to represent Schoharie County Government. Wearing the hat as a citizen, I am in full support of a casino in Schoharie County. The Board of Supervisors voted on a Resolution supporting the casino last spring. We're proud to have Howe Caverns as a strong candidate for that gaming site. (Cheers in background). Come on, be with me here. Howe Caverns has been the business and economic tourist engine in Schoharie for over 150 years. Why not add more cylinders to fuel this power house. In recent years, there have been several incidents that have negatively impacted Schoharie County economically. I'll be brief on the description of these incidents in the following bullet points. There are big ones, they are big ones. Once your read these incidents, you'll understand that the reasons why the county needs a casino. Bullet Number One: We lost a large factory with 600-800 jobs fifteen years ago, along with the loss of jobs, came a loss of tax base and economic multiplier affect. Bullet Number Two: Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, devastated homes, businesses, farms, public infrastructure. We're still under construction and the

issue of whether or not a jail needs to be relocated has not been resolved yet. Number Three: New York State closed Camp Summitt, a shock facility, a jail in our county. A hundred and fifty jobs are lost and again, the loss of tax base and economic multiplier affect. These are three big things that affected our small county. Let me end my plea on a positive note. Three years ago, the Town of Cobleskill, Schoharie County, and New York State, funded a new water and sewer line along Route 7. The project has just been completed. Yeah! Traffic jams are done. The line goes from the Village of Cobleskill out to Howe Caverns area. It's roughly two miles long. This will enhance our ancillary businesses that will be coming along with the new casino. I'm told that there could be approximately 2,000 jobs that would come into the county. Not only would this benefit Schoharie County, our neighboring, but also our neighboring, such as Montgomery, Otsego, Schenectady, Albany, Delaware and Greene Counties. Jobs mean prosperity and that's a good thing. In closing, I urge the Commission to support Howe Caverns and Schoharie County in our quest for prosperity. Thank you.

(Clapping)

Male: I have one question. Very simple, you would know the answer to this. It's a geography question. How long is the drive between Cooperstown and Howe?

Anthony VanGlad: About 40 minutes, maybe 45 if you're watching our scenery. The leaves are out, it's starting to look good.

Male: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Next up, Mark Quandt.

Mark Quandt: Good Morning and thank you for this opportunity and my name is Mark Quandt. I live in Schoharie and I am the Executive Director of the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York. As a resident of Schoharie, I can tell you that I love living in Schoharie. It's a wonderful place to live and I think that, but it is also economically challenged and job challenged, as many people have said. There are good jobs in Schoharie but for the most part, for people who live in Schoharie and Schoharie County, to get a good job, you have to travel quite a distance, 30 to 40 miles really up into the Capital District area to get a good job. And I think that's one of the reasons that you see so many people here in support of this casino in Schoharie. This type of project just never comes our way. We're not even considered for anything like this. You hear about economical development in Schenectady and Albany and all the areas that surround us here, but you never hear about economic development. Maybe small projects in Schoharie, but never, ever anything of this magnitude. And I think that's why people are so excited in the County about bringing in a project like that. As again, as many people have said, it would bring many good paying jobs to people who either don't have jobs now or traveling long distance to have good jobs, and would along with that bring all the other economical benefits, bringing in resources, financial resources into the county, and

also help to decrease the burden, the tax burden on people. In rural counties, sometimes we suffer a lot with the tax burden, because there is not a lot of businesses in the community so the tax burden falls on the residents of the community to pick up that tab. So, I think from those prospective, the project would be tremendously beneficial to Schoharie, but that's economic development and job creation is not really my expertise, but I have a lot of expertise in the areas of poverty and the areas of human service, and charitable giving, and from that prospective I think I can talk a little bit differently. First of all, a project like this again will lift a lot of people out of poverty in our community, people who are struggling, who are either working at low paying jobs, or have no jobs at all. It would lift them out of poverty and relieve some of the burden on some of the human service agencies in the county. Organizations like the Food Bank that serves agencies in the county, a lot of the food pantries and other community services that try to meet the needs of people, especially people suffering, in poverty or near poverty. But above and beyond that, again as Director of the Regional Food Bank and also a person who's very involved in our community. I've served on the School Board for a number of years, I've been involved with a lot of project at school, actively involved in youth programs, especially our Little League. I can honestly say that the people behind this project, people like Emil Glasso, people at Cobleskill Stone, people at Howe Caverns, are some of the most generous people who will ever meet. I have in many times I've called upon them, again through the Food Bank, through the Little League, through the school, and asked for support for many, many different projects, and I have asked many, many times, and I can honestly say that the answer has 100% of the time been yes. They've always been there. They've donated every single year. They donate thousands and thousands of dollars worth of any kind of support to the regional food bank to help us feed hungry people in our community, and again, the answer is always yes. I don't think you're going to find any other project that is listed on the table here today that has people behind it that are so community minded and so generous. So, from those perspectives, from the economic development it would bring to the community, I really support the project and encourage you to support the project, and from the charitable prospective, not only are they donating already, but I have every reason to believe that that charitable support will increase dramatically and will bring a lot of resources to community activities, and to human service organization in the county that desperately need that help. So thank you very much.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

(Clapping)

Male: Mark. Sounds to me like you donate a lot of that time and effort yourself and that's really nice of you. Thank you.

(Clapping)

Mark Quandt. Thank you.

Kevin Law: William Gallop.

William Gallop: Good Morning. My names Billy Gallop, representing Howe Caverns. I'm not going, I'm going to try not to be as redundant, because you're going to be hearing kind of the same things all day. So I'm going to try to tough on something that maybe hasn't been brought up to the Board as of yet. I'm not going to do as good as Chris Tauges speak, because I'm not quite as tall as him. However, what's interesting about our proposal is it homegrown. This was not million and billionaire casino developers looking to make more money. This was a local guys who got together and reached out to Emil Glasso, one of the owners of Howe Caverns, and thought, Gees, what a good opportunity for Schoharie County. Maybe we can pull this thing off. So this was homegrown right from the start, and we dug our boots in and started working and making phone calls and we talked to hundreds and hundreds of people across the world to try and get this thing motivated, and we put a good team together. Part of that team became Mike Mallock and Full House Resorts who ended up joining us to pursue this proposal. So I don't think there's any other site in though State that's applying that actually just homegrown. A couple of guys who believed in the county wanted to try and bring some growth and economic development and jobs to a place that needs it, and I'm not originally from Schoharie County. I just moved up here three years ago. I'm from Schenectady County, and I love seeing how Schenectady County has been growing. They're booming. You can read it in the Schenectady Gazette all the time. Their own public officials talk about the growth that they're county is having, as well as Albany County, with the college and Nano Tech.. Schoharie County doesn't have that. We haven't had that. Like I said, I moved out there and I have friends who live in Schenectady County and Albany County who might benefit from a casino over there, but I see what we have and what we can offer with the people who are there and the needy people who are there. So I thought our proposal was much more unique than anything else that has been presented to the Gaming Authority. One other thing I wanted to bring up is we're the only site that is a true tourist destination. There's other sites here that I'm watching across the State. I've been paying very close attention that are claiming this is a resort. A casino with a hotel and a restaurant is not a resort. It's not a place I would just go for that. I want more activity than that, which we can provide. We've got 110 acres already invested in just the water park with the hotel, casino with the hotel, six restaurants, Howe Caverns, Howe High Adventures, which is an outdoor adventure park and there's room for growth. There's an additional 200 acres, room for growth. A true tourist destination that we can benefit with and grow with the county. So, I don't know if any of this stuff has been brought up to the Board as of yet, it might of been touched on originally, but we're going to hit on families, not just you're local guys on their way home from work that want to go play the slots for a little while. We're going to have families come from three hours away and stay a night, stay two nights. It's a total destination that's being offered that no one else is offering. And one other thing I want to touch on that Kim forgot to, I think, when she was up here, is we've been out knocking on doors and talking to the community and trying to get more letters of support and see

who does support and who doesn't. 99% of everybody we talk to supports this project and we've got hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of letters that we're going to be presenting to you folks to show the community support that we have. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thanks Bill.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Hey Rob, Can they, I don't know how it is for you guys back there, but it's about 20 degrees up here. Maybe it's just blowing on me. I'm feeling like I could. Is it cold back there guys?

All: Yes

Kevin Law: Alright, don't turn on the heat, just turn it, don't turn it as high, as low. Next up is Richard McIlravy-Ackert.

Richard McIlravy-Ackert: I can offer you a tee shirt if you're that cold, we can get (unclear).

Kevin Law: Might be a conflict and biased. But thanks for the offer.

Richard McIlravy-Ackert: My pleasure. Thank you gentlemen for your herculean task of listening to many people who are concerned the siting of the casino in the Capital Districts, and I know you've got two more days coming, so really appreciate your doing that and appreciate your hearing me today. Again, my name Richard McIlravy-Ackert. I'm president of CSCA Unit 8501 in the City of Schenectady and I work for the police department in the City of Schenectady. Not as an officer but as a civilian, so I'm acutely aware of some of the problems that are facing our residents in terms of poverty and crime and things that impact quality of life issues. David Giacalone earlier spoke about the Stockade, that's also where I live in Schenectady, and even working for the police department, I've been a victim of crime there. So crime is there and I don't think that a coming is going to acerbate that. If anything, I hope it will draw further attention to what already exists and bring additional resources to stemming some of that. I also want to talk about Schenectady as a former economic industrial powerhouse. The city that lights and hauls the world. Earlier speakers spoke about General Electric and Alco and the impact that the thousand of jobs that they provided over the years. Their loss has been tremendous in the City of Schenectady. Tremendous economically. Tremendous socially. Real estate prices and taxes are exorbitant so now we're faced with, how do we provide the services to children in our schools? And by the way Schenectady School District is one of the neediest in the State of New York. We do not get our fair share of State Aide. This would be an opportunity to help balance that to some degree. But the 1,200 permanent jobs and the 1,400 construction jobs that would be provided with the Rivers Resort and Casino would certainly be an economic boom to a community that has

suffered long from a lack of economic opportunity. Philip Morris spoke earlier about the agreements that the arts organizations have had and certainly Proctors has been a driving force behind rebuilding Schenectady into what it once was. As I look at the map, it's kind of centrally located with all the other applicants. It's about a 45 minute drive from Howe Caverns and about a 45 minute drive from the East Greenbush and Capital View sites, as well. So, it would benefit the entire community, the entire region, but specifically Schenectady, and we hope that you'll give an opportunity to get a leg up and get the economic opportunity that we once had back in line with Schenectady. Thank you very much for your time.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Thank you. David Scott Dwyer.

David Scott Dwyer: I'm surrounded by a sea of yellow and blue and I'm kind of by myself here, so my name is David Scott Dwyer. No relation to Mayor Dan Dwyer, just so you know, and I support the Rensselaer Casino. The reason why is it has nothing to do with the fact that it's a casino, is it's located in the crossroads. You know, we have roads, you can see on the map, we're in a crossroads and the Hudson River is a part of that crossroads and we can utilize that. When you come to the City of Rensselaer or with the casino, you can come by car, by bus, you can even come by the train. Have any of you take the train up this morning or at all?

Male: I wish I had, I got lost.

David Scott Dwyer: It's a beautiful ride, it's a beautiful ride though, because if you get the right side of the train, you get to see the entire Hudson River. What if you were to take a cruise line? We have not, what if you were to take a cruise from New York City all the way up here to go to the casino. That's something that we haven't done in a 140 years. We gave up on the Hudson. The reason why Schenectady is building theirs is because they did the same. We built in 2007, we were suppose to have a hotel and marina. Joe Bruno got the money, got the help so that we do it. They torn my school down for this, okay, and now it's laying empty, but there's potential. And starting with that casino it will be a focal point, it will be a foundation stone, and we all know that the best foundation stones are the biggest rocks, and that cruise, it's not just going to help Rensselaer, it will help Albany, it could very well help Schenectady, but more importantly, what about everyone down south. As that cruise comes up, they can stop in several cities along the way, Poughkeepsie, Hudson, there are go many opportunities that this casino can be. It's not going to be a casino, it will be a destination for everyone. This is your legacy. Think about it. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Next is Adam Amour (sounds like)

Adam Amour: Good Morning. Thank you for the opportunity to speak this morning. I am Adam Amour and I am President of American Federal of State and County Municipal Employees Local 1037 in the City of Schenectady. I'm here to support the Rivers Casino and Resort at Mohawk Harbor. The casino will provide 1,200 permanent jobs. This presents a real opportunity that our residents need in the area to build a future. Rivers Casino will bring millions not only for the school district but also for the city and the county. I know that they have pledged that the money for property tax relief, which I can tell you is badly needed, but it will also help us keep city workers on the job and improve our cities inner structure and make sure Schenectady is a better place to live. I'd like to stress that Schenectady is behind this project. We waited too long and worked too hard to let the opportunity like this pass by. People who are dedicated to this city have fought and struggled to keep things together and to bring them back, we just need the next big thing to ensure a better and brighter future. Schenectady is ready. Thank you.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Thank you. Anders Thompson

Anders Thompson: Hi there, good morning. My name is Anders Thompson. I'm President of Capital Bank, a local community bank, and I'm here to give words of support for the Rivers Casino at Mohawk Harbor. A couple points I'd like to make, I'd like to speak about the community benefit but also a little bit about the applicant who I've known for quite some time and have done business for some time. I should say that I have no perspective business interest in this, but have known them professionally for some time. The site down at, off of Erie Boulevard is a tough brown field and it's got scale and it's imposing and it impacts a lot of neighboring uses. It impacts negatively, I believe, downtown, the College of Schenectady, the community college, Union College, and the area's historic residential areas. I think the development has a great potential of positively impact those areas. Schenectady as you know, or as many know, is an urban area that has struggled from many of the common urban upstate issues of poverty, distress, underutilized historic buildings. Schenectady is like that although there has been some strides, excellent strides championed by the Galesi Group and Metroplex, there is certainly more to do, and I can't speak more to the potential impact of that, the multiuse of that, and also the potential to open up the riverfront, and to have it a continued benefit, not just on the employment, but also on the residents that live by and have access to that riverfront. Lastly, I just want a word about the Galesi Group, the applicant. This is a tough project. You have a brown field development, large scale riverfront, it's going to take some technical expertise, it's going to take some financial wherewithall. Over many decades I have worked with the Galesi Group. I can't speak to people more higher professional capability, of ethical character and just an ability to get the job done with the best interest. They've been a champion downtown Schenectady for many years, We've

worked with them, be in on the goal of headquarters or bringing residents downtown, or support of local charities, be it Proctors or others, but the Galesi Group is a fantastic organization. I'm privilege to have worked them. I think that the opportunity to have a positive impact that impacts many, many people in this tough urban area is great, and I'm very excited about the opportunity and I appreciate your time today.

Male: I have one question. Do you know if this, the project, my understanding is that the casino and the hotel would be part of a project with residential and retail components. Are those, is there going to be a development whether or not there is a casino at that area.

Anders Thompson: You know, I can't speak to that. I think the development of a site like this, you know, its tough, you need a significant economic event to redevelop a site like this and there's not that many that can do that, so this casino presents that opportunity. I think that it will have a catalyst affect on all those following uses.

Male: Okay

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Next speaker, you've signed up twice.. Mary Beth Early. Do you want to speak now or later? You can't speak twice, but you can speak now or later.

Mary Beth Early: I didn't sign up twice.

Kevin Law: They had you registered for 6:00 PM.

Mary Beth Early: Yes, that's my daughter who will be speaking.

Kevin Law: Is also Mary Beth?

Mary Beth Early: No, she is Samantha.

Kevin Law: Alright, so the floor is yours Mary Beth.

Mary Beth Early; Thank you very much.

Kevin Law: Take an extra five seconds then.

Mary Beth Early: Oh thanks. I won't need it. My name is Mary Beth Early and I have lived in East Greenbush for over 16 years. I am vehemently opposed to the siting of the casino in my town for a number of reasons. A rather high number of reasons, in fact. For over 3,000 reasons and counting. Over 3,000 people have signed a Petition to oppose the building of a casino in the Town of East Greenbush. They've signed either an on-line Petition, a Petition postcard, or a paper Petition, walked door-to-door through East

Greenbush neighborhoods and circulated at local events. Over 3,000 people have said No to the increases in traffic, noise, and light pollution, drunk driving occurrences, crime, and other negatives that East Greenbush will be host to if Capital View Casino is built. Over 3,000 people who have spoken. Even though the East Greenbush Town Board allowed them no vote and in fact actively excluded them from participating in the most important decision the town has ever faced. Over 3,000 people who think a casino has no place adjacent to a girl scout camp, across the street from a Montessori school, and within easy walking distance of a high school. Over 3,000 people who do not welcome an enterprise that generates most of its profit from preying on people's addictions. Over 3,000 people from towns including East Greenbush, Rensselaer, North Greenbush, Sand Lake, West Sand Lake, Troy, Skoda, Castleton, Wineskill, Nassau, Albany, Latham, Loudonville, and yes, even Saratoga. When the developer tells you they don't where the opposition is coming from, they must not have their eyes open, because it's coming from their neighbors. Over 3,000 people who think that the developers offers to pay Thompson Hill residents taxes for five year and to give \$11 million dollars to the City of Albany, both in exchange for casino support are nothing short of bribery. And here's another way to think about those 3,000 plus signatures. Since the East Greenbush casino will be a Wal-Mart casino, in the truest sense of that phrase, because there is a Wal-Mart right across the street. It will depend upon local patronage to be profitable. Well, I guarantee you, there are at least 3,000 local residents who will do anything, anything to avoid stepping foot on Capital View property and offering up even a nickel to one of its slot machines. Gentlemen, as you move forward with this siting process, please keep this number in mind because it represents the people who will continue to oppose Capital View Casino if you do decide to grant it a license. We will watch and question and denounce and expose and bring litigation and fight the building of a East Greenbush Casino at every possible opportunity. Thank you.

(Cheering and Clapping)

Kevin Law: Thank you. J.T. Pollard.

J.T. Pollard: Hi guys.

Kevin Law: The floor is yours.

J.T. Pollard: My name is J. T. Pollard. I'm a, I own a small architecture firm called Reform Architecture in the City of Schenectady. About twelve years ago, I bought out a firm that was located in Burnhills, a very successful firm in business since 1976, located in Burnhills, about a mile from my house. At that time, I started looking at different cities to go to, really studying the cities and what would be best fit for our firm in the work we did. We decided that we would move to Schenectady and I invested over a million and a half dollars in the City of Schenectady to move our office there, with no financial support from the City. The Metroplex which is a great organization and helps small businesses relocate, but I thought it would be better if I moved my firm with my

own funds. Recently, I've made another million dollar investment in the City. I bought a building out of foreclosure and we're moving, my wife is starting a business downtown and we're really excited about that. I am the architect for Mohawk Harbor and I heard earlier that you had a question on what would be developed if we did not get the casino, and I can tell you that this has been an uphill battle for all of us involved. This is a very difficult project. This is a brown field site that is just massively, a massive project. We are moving forward with the Harbor and about 50% of the site, about 30 acres. The other 30 acres has no plans for development right now. We need this casino in Schenectady. Schenectady is ready for this. We need jobs. We have projects up in Hamilton Hill where these people need jobs. They have nothing up there. I can appreciate the people down in Schoharie and all that they've lost, but we need jobs. We are an urban environment. The whole movement right now is to move back to the urban environment. Not to develop green fields. The whole lead organization is set up to move away from green fields and to develop urban environments. That's what it's all set up for. You get a massive amount of points towards your accreditation for just developing a site in an urban environment. Not to mention, developing a brown field. The Galesi Group, they're such a good team of people that are put together and they've already invested over \$100 million dollars in the City of Schenectady and you talk about just a commitment to an area and rebuilding an area. These guys are doing it along with the Metroplex and when I decided to move to Schenectady, well I was working on my first project down there. You can just tell the energy downtown and how everybody worked together and everybody just wanted the same thing, and this is to revitalize an area and provide jobs for people in an urban environment where there're needed. This is just a great project. I don't know if you've really studied the entire project, the whole global project, but it's 200 apartments, it's 45 condos, it's retail, it's office, it's a whole development of what is, what needs to be done in urban areas to employ people and to bring destinations that people want to go to. Located on a harbor that is accessible by boat. Located right next to the train station. Located next to the Schenectady County Airport. Located a mile from 890, which is a crossroad between the east and the west. It's just an unbelievable site and I'm really proud to be a part of the project and that Dave entrusted me into the design of it, but we're really excited about the project and we just hope you'll consider Schenectady. So Schenectady is ready. Thank you.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Thank you. R. Merman (sounds like)

R. Merman: Good Morning. My name is Roger Merman. I'm a 45 year resident of the Town of East Greenbush. I'm retired now but for 47 years I earned my living as a registered landscape architect and planner. And I'm here this morning to speak in opposition to the Capital View proposal and the Hard Rock proposal because they will both influence me as a resident of Rensselaer County. I want to try to make five points. I hope I can go one minute at a time here. First, a previous speaker referred to a small minority of MWBEs. I would point out to you gentlemen that Proposition One passed at

East Greenbush by a margin of 4%. That means that 48% of East Greenbush's voters were opposed to gambling, casino gambling. I hardly consider that a small minority of MNBEs. Second, this proposal is not approvable under local law. Now granted the New York racing Para mutual wagering and breeding law exempts gaming from local law.. The Capital View proposal contains elements other than gaming, like a hotel, like restaurants, like bars, like a 2,000 parking space facility, that are not gaming and are therefore subject to local law. Local law has no provision for those kinds of facilities in the zoning district in which that proposal is located. Therefore, is not approvable under East Greenbush local law. A previous speaker used a phrase that I want to copy. She said this is a spectacularly inappropriate location for a casino. Think of the things that some of the previous speakers have indicated which actually lie within 1.9 road miles of the Capital View facility. There's a Montessori School, there's a high school campus, there is a girl scout camp immediately adjacent. Things that people haven't mentioned, there are three facilities that cater to senior citizens, and pretty soon I may be one of them. There is the regional YMCA, there is the town public library, all within 1.9 road miles of this facility. This will be an attractive thing for susceptible people that will be using those. This is indeed a spectacularly inappropriate site. Fourth, before I retired I served the City of Rensselaer Planning Board in its review of the State Environmental Quality Review for de Laets Landing, which was the development proposed by U. W. Marx on the site which is now proposed for Hard Rock. So I have an understanding of what that was. That development proposed by U. W. Marx was a spectacular plan to incorporate a vibrant mix of commercial uses and a mix of residential uses, all of which had quantifiable impacts and identifiable mitigations that were all reviewed and accepted by the City of Rensselaer for de Laets Landing. Now Hard Rock Café proposes to put a casino that will have entirely different impacts, none of which have been reviewed under the State Environmental Quality Review Law. That review will need to take place. Now Mayor Dwyer, I have seen him make statements that had been broadcast on local media, that all these have been done. That is not so. The State Environmental Quality Review process must be completed with respect to Hard Rock, and last but not least, I would direct your attention, and this has to be with state-wide gambling, I would direct your attention and the attention of people here to the Comptroller's Report that was issued on casino gambling, which has essentially debunk the notion that casinos are valid and sustainable engines for economic development. Look at the casinos in Atlantic City. They're closing, there is a limited number of gambling dollars to go around this country and there's more and more competition for them. So I believe that while these facilities are attractive and they're certainly being proposed in some communities that have dire need for jobs and economic growth, I don't think casinos are the answer. Thank you very much.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Mark Glazer. Is Mark here?

Male: He's not speaking.

Kevin Law: Okay, thank you. Back to the other list. We're five minutes early for the 11:00 list. Is Gloria Rogers here?

Gloria Rogers: Good Morning. I'm Gloria Rogers. I'm from North Greenbush. One of the towns adjacent to East Greenbush. And first I want to thank you for providing this forum for the people today. I'm a former East Greenbush resident now living about fifteen minutes from the proposed Capital View Casino site. Having lived in both towns, I've seen traffic and other issues from both side of the town line and I guarantee that the impacts do not stop at municipal boundaries. I'm here to speak to the effects of a casino in East Greenbush on the neighboring towns and their residents. Some of who live closer to the proposed site than some East Greenbush residents. The combined population of North Greenbush, West Sand Lake, Averill Park, Sand Lake, and the Skoda's is 37,700 plus. The actions taken by the East Greenbush Town Board and the developers of Capital View do not just affect the 16,400 plus residents of East Greenbush, they affect the lives of more than 54,000 people. Please consider the following: Traffic. These 54,000 plus people all use Route 4 and Routes 9 and 20 as their major routes. They all use one of two bridges to cross the Hudson River and they all use Interstate 787 and Exit 7, 8, 9, and 10 from I-90 to get to work or to home at night. Route 4 traffic is congested from early morning well into the evening, 6 days a week, and the same is true of Routes 9 and 20, and the bridges across the Hudson. We do not need nor want even more traffic impeding us no matter what promises of alleviation have been made. One of the benefits pitched by the developers to the Town Board was that the businesses in the area would get a boost from people coming to the casino. Yet in Capital Views presentation on September 8, Mr. Austin Miller of Churchill Downs said, There is a terrible pinch point right on that bridge when you cross over into Rensselaer. Word to the wise, if you want to cross the bridge and go into Rensselaer and get to Capital View, don't do it during rush hour. It's a seven minute quick trip from 787 to I-90. So Mr. Miller confirmed the traffic congestion on the Dune Memorial Bridge and on Routes 9 and 20, and then he preceded to recommend a Route to the casino that bypasses all the businesses between the Dune Memorial Bridge on 9 and 20, and the intersection with Route 4 as well as any businesses between Route 4 and the casino on the south side. Emergency services and police. Every fire department that serves every one of these towns is made up of volunteers. It's already very difficult having been a volunteer fighter myself, to recruit volunteers. Often there's barely enough money to buy the vehicles, equipment, turnout gear, and to cover the cost of unfunded state mandates. These same statements apply to most of our EMT services. With the crowds of people coming in as the developers of the casino has promised, the surrounding towns are going to need more volunteers, more equipment, and more vehicles. And based on anticipating increase in crimes as seen in other casino towns, its logical to assume that adjoining town would need to hire more police personnel. I doubt that the Town of Greenbush and Capital View Casino will help us recruit more volunteer first responders and give us the funds to pay for more police and

other expansions they will be forcing on us. Capital View Casino is willing to give the City of Albany a million dollars a year to cover whatever, but as far as I know, no such offer has been made to the towns which would be most affected. This could only mean one thing, higher taxes for those of us who live in the surrounding towns. I can't have his time, so I'm going to skip the ridiculous ___ proposed site, which it's only slightly worse than next to a house of worship. Despite earlier claims by the developers this project does not have the support of the East Greenbush School District. Capital View Casino, these are very important things gentlemen, Capital View Casino has no letters of support from the towns surrounding East Greenbush and I respectfully submit that this should tell the gaming commission and the members of this Board a great deal. The East Greenbush Town Board disrespected not only its own constituents but the residents of the neighboring towns as well. Without performing due diligence, a hand full of people from one Town Board made a decision that could force unfunded expansion of services and higher taxes on the towns around them.

Kevin Law: Gloria, times up.

Gloria Rogers: Oh dear. They shouldn't have that right. Thank you.

(Cheering & Clapping)

Kevin Law: Thank you Gloria. That was great, thank you. Actually, seriously folks, you are educating us on a lot of different issues and that's the purpose of this forum. But also, I would ask you to have respect for one another and if you're having sidebar conversations in the back to take it outside so, because I don't want to miss anything by hearing rumblings in the back. So next speaker is Marlin Anderson. Marlin, the floors yours.

Marlin Anderson: Thank you. Good Morning Gentlemen of the Commission, Public at large. My name of course, is Marlin Anderson. For those of you that do not know, I'm a community advocate in the City of Albany. I'm also a former Mayoral candidate in the City of Albany. I've come forward this morning to speak about the casino issue and in general I'm going to try to give proper direction on where it needs to go. When Government Cuomo first advanced the idea and initiative of placing casinos in the Capital Region, I was immediately on board because Government action that leads to massive corporate investment is what is needed. It's the proper equation to create jobs and economic growth. And to speak on economic growth directly to the developers, please as you can see from this turnout, please understand that the Capital Region is open for business. Don't limit your business opportunities and investments to just casinos. The Capital Region is open for business and please consider for any of your future projects, because as you can see here, we will welcome it. Basically, when you're considering where to place this casino, it has to be understood that it's not about creating a casino that can profit and things of that nature, it's about the economic benefit of the region where that casino is located. Try to think of it in terms of dropping a stone in a

pond. You want to create, put the casino in a proper place that it can create a ripple effect of economic benefit to the communities that surround it. You don't want to put a casino in the middle of nowhere where it's just going to affect the middle of nowhere. You don't want to put the casino on the top of a hill where again, it's not going to affect anyone. You want to put it in a proper place and a proper location where the region can benefit from that, that it's located in. And in my view, I think the proper location; the best proposal for a casino in the Capital Region is the Hard Rock bid because that will instill and create growth both sides of the river. It will create a ripple effect that will create jobs. The Hard Rock has the best and proven model to create jobs and economic benefit. If you build a Hard Rock, they will come. People will come from miles away to come to the Hard Rock. People will build things, if you build the Hard Rock on the riverfront, you will see business incentivizing on the riverfront. Business incentivizing in downtown Rensselaer, business incentivizing in downtown Albany, and that's what this is about, incentivizing business. This is not about creating casinos, this is not about going to war with the casino, this is about economics, and it has to be taken as an economic issue. And if you look at where they're proposing it, it's the proper location. Howe Caves, while I appreciate the effort, it's the middle of nowhere. Schenectady is too far away to affect the surrounding counties and communities. The only location that's proper that could affect the communities is the Riverfront location of the Hard Rock Casino. It will affect Albany County, it will affect Rensselaer County, it will create an incentivize jobs, it will be a gateway destination coupled with the coming Albany Convention Center. The Hard Rock bid, when you look at it for what it is, it is the only proposal that can virtually guarantee economic growth, jobs, and opportunities. It will stimulate, it's just like it will fertilize the field and that's what this is all about. It's not just about putting a casino here or there, it's about the best casino, the best model, the best idea, and I urge you on an economic basis to consider the Rensselaer bid, because it is the best bid on the table to serve the purposes which the Governor originally created this casino bid for. I thank you for your time and again, developers, the Capital Region is open business so don't let your development efforts end here. Thank you very much.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Thank you, well done. I made a mistake before, I skipped over and I apologize. Bill Reinholt. Is Bill here?

Bill Reinholt: Thank you, my name is William Reinholt, I'm an East Greenbush resident. I want to talk today about the process and the actions of the developer and the East Greenbush Town Board with respect to this proposal. The basis for my remarks come from the important word in the Gaming Commission Mission Statement. They are Integrity, Credibility, Quality, and Transparency. From this to me, it stands that any Town Board and any developer must also be held to these standards, these very same standards. Gentlemen, this is not been the case in East Greenbush. Not even close. The developer's entourage and most of the Town Board lack integrity and they've been purposely clandestine and they've been very, very disrespectful to the residents. First, is

the well documented exclusion of any input from the residents. Next, the Town Board was not informed of multiple changes by the developer. Any claim otherwise, is untrue. The project as you've heard has been downsized severely since they initiated this thing without absolutely zero change in the financial estimates. The Town Board did not understand what they were voting for on both the April 16th and the June 12th votes and they have acted capriciously. They relied solely on information from the developers marketing presentation and high-level financial estimates. They did no due diligence. They did not do anything other than listen to Jim Feathers and Supervisor Langley, who demanded they vote for it. On July 24th, as you heard, Town Board Member Mary Ann Matters demonstrated the courage and the maturity to rethink this and publically rescind her support. I'm citing her reasons. She said, It's an elaborately orchestrated Bait and Switch scheme from the developer. No revenue guarantees. Numerous changes in the project with no communication to, and no input from the Town Board. This is very disturbing coming from an inside Town Board Member, and further evidence, this developer cannot be trusted. On August 21st, Town Board Member Sue Mangold recused herself from involvement in the casino due to a conflict of interest with her brother. She did not do this voluntarily. As a long standing member of the Town Board, it's incomprehensible that she did not understand her duty to live within the Code of Ethics. From a ___ response, it's also clear that in May, Supervisor Langley and Town Board Member Deb DeMartino were aware of Mangolds conflict of interest. Neither of them took any steps to prevent her from participating or call this violation of ethics out. Their lack of integrity is disturbing.. On August 27th, as you heard, Feathers orchestrated a backroom deal to buy support from Albany's Mayor Sheehan for \$11 Millions and 25% of the jobs for the East Greenbush Casino. This blatant hypocrisy is appalling.. At the developers presentation you asked the Capital View Team, Mr. Law, about community resistance. The answer you got was pure spin. Rita Cox knows full well there's a law suit. Rita Cox knows full well there are thousand and thousands of Petitions. She further stated that the building plan was changed as a result of feedback from the community. This is untrue. The community was never asked. There is anything but full support from this community and you've heard that in spades today. Three points to close. The pattern of statements and actions by this developer and the East Greenbush Town Board are specious, ever-changing and not credible. They violate your key mission principles. The 5-0 vote by the Town Board on June 12th, which included Sue Mangold to promote the casino to the Gaming Commission Siting Board was unethical and the vote should be nullified in its entirety Perhaps a casino is right for another site in the Capital Region, but not East Greenbush. It's the wrong place for the wrong reasons and has used the wrong process to even to be nominated. Thanks for your time.

(Cheering and Clapping)

Kevin Law: Maria Barrington.

Maria Barrington: Good Morning.

Kevin Law: Good Morning.

Maria Barrington: Thank you for the opportunity to speak this morning. I've prepared remarks because as any of my friends and colleagues, I can talk for way more than five minutes. So my name is Maria Barrington. I'm a resident of East Greenbush currently. My family has had five generations of Rensselaer County residents. Four generations currently. I am adamantly opposed to the siting of the casino on Thompson Hill. You will hear a lot to day about why this location is wrong for a casino. You will hear about the fact that our town has no economic need despite the developers last stitch attempt to couch two of our neighborhoods as pockets of distress. Shame on Saratoga Gaming and Churchill Downs. We don't want or need business people to come into our town by starting off by insulting us. You will hear about the master plan of our town which denotes that parcel of land as residential buffer. There's a reason for that. This parcel of land is sited next to the high school.. Wrong place for a casino. This parcel of land is sited near a elementary school. Wrong place for a casino. This parcel of land abuts residences. Wrong place for a casino. This parcel of land is sited next to a girl scout camp that has been there for many decades. It's the girl scout camp I attended as a youngster, that my daughters went to when they were children, and that I as a girl scout leader took my troops to camping. This is a shabby way to treat that community resource. It will irreparably harm them. They've been a great community resource to us. Despite what the developers say about the terrain and security fences. No child of mine nor no grandchild of mine will attend a sleep away camp where alcohol is served 24/7. Even the fact that we have to talk about security fences is disturbing. Wrong place for a casino. You will hear about our unfortunate financial conditions in our town. That's the truth. Not unfortunately because we're economically depressed, but because of fiscal mismanagement. Read the OSC reports and weep. Today, to dispite loud constant and intense pressure from residents and a change in party leadership, nothing has been done to address those issues which were deemed by the OSC as likely illegal. Our town leaders are looking for the quick fix. Wrong place for a casino. You will hear that the unanimous support from the Town Board has dwindled to 3 out 5, as you just heard from another East Greenbush resident, due to Town Board Member Mary Ann Matters courageously changing her opinion based on what she termed, the Bait and Switch, which they again, the developer say was due to community support, and input. Whose input? They never asked any of those 3,058 plus people who have signed the Petition. They didn't ask us. We're the same people at the meeting speaking out. (Crash) I didn't touch it. Thank you, speaking out, we're the same faces. Nobody asked me for a meeting. And, as you know, the other vote, well that is a recusal based upon the conflict of interest which everyone in the town talked about long before the second vote, and it took the letter from the lawyer to make this person recuse herself, and that Town Board Member is now the subject of many complaints regarding her ethics violations. This is not the place to start this business in our town. To wrap up, I'm going to tell you a story about my mother, because I like to entertain.

Male: Is it a poem?

Maria Barrington: It's not a poem and it's short. My mom's a responsible gambler. By that I mean, she takes money she can afford and enjoys visiting casinos. Everywhere from Turning Stone, Mohegan Sun, New Jersey, Las Vegas, she'd go there. She's a card player. She's good. As she says, she won't touch the slots because you might as well hand your money to the casino, turn around and get in your car and go home. So she is not doing that but she's a good card player. So, when the announcement came out about the regional casinos, she sent me a newspaper link and it said, Something to live for. She's 85. So good thing we can disagree in our family. As soon as she learned about the casino, I'm watching the clock, as soon as she learned about the casino coming to Thompson Hill three miles from her house; I knew I was going to have to hear about how great this was. I got the call alright. She was incents. Who thinks this is a good idea, she says. This is a terrible location. What about the high school, what about the girl scout camp, what about the traffic, what about those people who live on Thompson Hill, she said. She ended with, this is the most idiotic idea I'm ever heard. She actually used stronger language, but I'd asked her if I could paraphrase.

Kevin Law: Maria, your times up.

Maria Barrington: It's not just about folks who are against gambling, not just about folks who don't like casinos, my mother along with the other 3,000 residents signed that Petition. Wrong place for a casino.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

(Cheering and Clapping)

Kevin Law: Mike Connors and then we go back to the other list. Is Mike Connors here? Come on up.

Male: Mr. Connors, do you have one for the record?

Mike Connors: Yes. My name is Michael Connors. I'm the Albany County Comptroller. I'm going to try to do this in three and a half minutes. I've given you a long list of complaints or concerns that we have about this matter, particularly looking at Capital Off-Track Bettings involvement as one of the partners in the Hard Rock Café Casino. The issues that we think have not been addressed have to do with OTB getting away from what their original charter is. I have not seen an answer to whether it is or is not legal for them to be engaged in casino business. They were asked twice by this panel and there was no answer given at the hearing on the 8th. I have not yet had that. I have contacted Capital TB about this and about rumors about their involvement and I have not received any response. But that's not surprising. We've had difficulty with them for a number of years cumulating in Davis Etkin going to jail about 17 or 18 years ago. A finding of 28 matters of illegality in 2006 and 2007, and some other issues in 2011, that

we found there. I have some economic concerns about the impact on Albany County. The handle that is distributed among the 17 localities is based upon two things. It's based upon population and upon handle, and it's a mix of that. I think that the handle moves across the river and obviously that hurts our county. I also think that there's a problem if the management is allowed to wager while at work. We pushed for a resolution in 2006 or 07, so that top management and Board of Directors could not wager while onsite. No casino anywhere in the world will allow the people operating that casino to gamble while their at work or in that casino. We think that's a mistake and we hope you look at this very seriously and delve into that matter. There are several other issues that we think are of concern about their partnership, whether they're irresponsible to request for information for foils or anything else. One of our biggest problems has to do with security. An issue very critical to the operation of a casino. In 2006, we had a whistleblower come to use, we released the information, several more came forward. As it turned out one was the head of security, the other was a deputy security officer. They were able to show me film that showed that they were allowing people to bet who were not present and who did not have money in their account. It also revealed that there were checks that were held and not being deposited, and checks that had bounced, third-party checks, and if you look at the OTB report from Racing and Wagering back in 2007, you'll see that there's some serious problems and questions. Finally so that I end early, I do have serious reservations about an economic policy that's dependant upon gambling for a way of income being generated by the State of New York. I think that the idea and the glitter of it is great, but when you look at the economic realities and the competition from internet wagering, it's clear that there is not the amount of disposable income for all these casinos to stay open. You need only look at Connecticut to see the problems that the two closely located casinos and the impact Aqueduct had upon them. If you look at what happened with Pennsylvania and Maryland, Delaware opening up casinos, you can see what happened to New Jersey with the loss there, so hopefully you'll look at this seriously and seriously question their fitness to be a member of this. Thank you very much and I'm a minute and a half under budget.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Thank you Mike. Thank you. Okay, next up is Mike Moore, speaking on behalf of a number on individuals. We like that Mike so come on up.

Mike Moore: Good Morning. Thank you very much. I'm here representing the 56 people that came down on the bus this morning who all signed up that would like to speak, but we have a bus to catch back to Howe Caverns, so I just want to thank everybody for attending today and thank you for supporting Howe Caverns, because we really do need it. Thank you very much. It's our time. It's our time. Thank you.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Thank you.

(Cheering and Clapping)

Kevin Law: Mike, thank you and on behalf of the whole Board here, we really appreciate the passion that you guys have and you're right, we're going to have a tough decision to make on all these because we're not going to be able to make everybody happy, but we certainly appreciate all you guys coming down here today. Thank you for your time.

Group: Thank you, it's our time!

Kevin Law: Okay, we'll take a three minute break and...

Male: Adjust the air conditioning please.

Male: They did already.

Kevin Law: It's actually warmer than it was before and what time are you scheduled to speak. Okay, hold on. I have a Todd Carozza next. Are you Eileen Grant? You're on deck, double deck, after Todd Carozza, but we're taking a three minute break. And just folks a reminder if some of you came in late, we're working off two lists. People who registered earlier through the website and then people who registered just today. Five minutes and/or less is welcomed. Todd.

Todd Carozza: Thank you very much, I cleared the room a little bit here. Thank you. My name is Todd Carozza with BBL Hospitality. I'm here supporting the Rivers Casino and Resort in Schenectady. I'm just going to take a few moments of your time. Thank you very much for having me. It is really exciting to think about how the community is going to benefit from the Rivers Casino and Resort in Schenectady. With the projected 2.8 million visitors a year, the ancillary business in revenues is staggering. It's truly a game changer for the City of Schenectady. BBL Hospitality is the leading local hospitality company in the Capital District. We employ over 800 people in the restaurant and hotel field. The Rivers Casino & Resort compliments our businesses and core values bringing new opportunities to our associates and new business opportunities to our colleagues. BBL Hospitality has many ties to Schenectady including a long-standing relationship with Schenectady County Community College. We have many programs with them, internships as well as courses to help develop local talent within the hospitality industry. This gives us an opportunity to continue that relationship and have other opportunities for people in the future. As Hoteliers and Restaurateurs, we know the value of each and every guest. This project offers our guest multiple attractions, a variety of reasons to stay in Schenectady. From the Rivers Casino and Resort, to Proctors, to the many restaurants and entertainment areas in Schenectady. We are very proud to support this project. Thank you very much for your time.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Thank you Todd. Eileen Grant.

Eileen Grant: Good Morning. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on casino placement. My name is Eileen Grant and my husband and I have been homeowners in the Town of East Greenbush for 27 years. I am in favor of casinos as proposed by Governor Cuomo and I voted yes on the ballot for casinos. I first moved to East Greenbush in 1960 as an elementary school student and I have lived in southern Rensselaer County ever since. Over the years, I have lived in both the City of Rensselaer and the Town of East Greenbush. It's been a real pleasure, a privilege for one. I love both communities and I have cherished friends, neighbors, and relatives in both communities. Southern Rensselaer County is a fine place to live and I was thrilled to find that we might have a casino in East Greenbush. My first reaction was to publically ask our East Greenbush Town Board to seek appropriate considerations in writing for our town from the casino developers. The City of Albany has obtained such consideration from Capital View Developers, but I am very disappointed to learn that no similar promises are made to East Greenbush. In fact, East Greenbush response has been vague, filled with improbable hype-type-rederick, with a lack of specificity that is shocking in comparison to the Albany deal. Next I listened carefully to my friends and neighbors in East Greenbush and after thoughtful consideration, I agree with them that the East Greenbush site is inappropriate. Leadership has been lacking from elected officials in East Greenbush. There is a wide-spread agreement that elected officials were less than forthcoming in the rollout and downsizing of this project. At this point, one Town Board member has recused and one Town Board member has withdrawn support. Vague promises of reduced taxes have been floated in East Greenbush but no public statement of intent has been forthcoming from the Town Supervisor, Keith Langley. Leadership from the Mayor of Rensselaer has been clear and specific. Mayor Dwyer has pledged to fix the aging roads and sewers if casino funds become available. His support of the Hard Rock project has been refreshing and direct. The Governor has made financial need an important factor in site consideration. The Town of East Greenbush has financial distress but the problems stem from mismanagement and ill-advised spending. East Greenbush had steadfastly refused to prevent findings of any audits since 2009, although such audits have been conducted and paid for. They have no plans to conduct any audits in the near future. It is safe to assume that East Greenbush would remain unwilling to manage a financial recovery plan if it were selected as a casino site. The City of Rensselaer on the other hand, has a documented financial need. The aging infrastructure has already been targeted for repair if any casino revenue is realized. They have a real believable plan and they seem well-prepared to move forward with it. One of the questionable proclamations made by Capital View was that the casino would open in 18 months if East Greenbush were selected. Eighteen months is not enough time to complete the normal zoning, planning and SEQRA review. Forget building the facility. Additionally, there is at least one current lawsuit involving the project and fertile ground for the development of other legal action. More funny business can be expected if this timeline is real to the

developers. In sharp contrast, Hard Rock Rensselaer has a shovel-ready site and a realistic plan for the building and opening of a casino within the guidelines set forth by the Governor. My neighbors in East Greenbush are committed to insisting the public officials are accountable to planning guidelines and zoning laws. Their efforts are likely to be time consuming and prevent the timely opening of a casino at the current site. My neighbors in Rensselaer are in support of the Hard Rock project and eagerly await the opportunity to patronize that project. My home, to address MNBW question, my home is closer to the Hard Rock site than it is to the Capital View site. Nevertheless, I am an East Greenbush resident proud to be in favor of Hard Rock Rensselaer. Residents of both communities in southern Rensselaer County desire this opportunity to enjoy the iconic Hard Rock venue. I firmly believe it would result in waterfront development, an increase in economic development for both the City of Rensselaer and the Town of East Greenbush. With respect, I urge you to give the Hard Rock Rensselaer project first consideration. I have four seconds left and I just want to mention a very important group of tourist who regularly visit our area who would be thrilled to see that beautiful black guitar and be able to patronize the Hard Rock and that's the New York State Legislature and their staffs. For six months a year, the Legislature comes and visits us and from their offices, many of them would be able to see that beautiful guitar and come in the doors below it and enjoy the Hard Rock Rensselaer. Have a good day gentlemen. Thank you for your service.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Thank you. Next is Tom Grant.

Tom Grant. Good Morning. I'm Tom Grant. I'm a resident of East Greenbush. Welcome to the Capital Region. Thank you very much for listening and also thanks for the coffee, tea, and Danish that you've provided. Appreciate it very much.

Kevin Law: There's Danish?

(Laughter)

Tom Grant: Oh, yea, probably not any more. I live closer to the Hard Rock Casino site in the City of Rensselaer than the proposed Capital View Casino site in the Town of East Greenbush, although I do live in East Greenbush. I support the siting of a casino in the City of Rensselaer. Compare and contrast just for a little bit. The Rensselaer site is shovel-ready; the East Greenbush site is not shovel-ready. Traffic studies have been completed in the City of Rensselaer; traffic studies have not been completed in the Town of East Greenbush. The City of Rensselaer has had experienced with a SEQRA process, completion a successful SEQRA process on the proposed site for the casino in Rensselaer; the SEQRA process has not been completed in East Greenbush. The Rensselaer project is zoned appropriately; the East Greenbush project is not zoned appropriately. The proposed East Greenbush project area is zoned as residential buffer.

The Rensselaer project has strong community support; the East Greenbush project has strong community opposition, and there will be strong community opposition and legal action throughout every step of the siting process from here on in. The Rensselaer project has the strong support and open and transparent leadership of its Mayor, Dan Dwyer; East Greenbush, the Town Supervisor, when asked by its constituents and fellow Town Board members to explain the details of the proposed East Greenbush project, responded by saying, The Resolution is the Resolution. When asked specific questions about how the process will evolve for the completion of the project, the Town Supervisor of East Greenbush responded, The Process is the Process. Not quite open and transparent Government by any means. I thank you for listening and again I thank for your service to the people of the State of New York. Thank you so much.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Thank you. Mary Lou Knox.

Mary Lou Knox: Good Morning, it is still morning. It seems like days since we walked in. I'm sure you think that too. My name is Mary Lou Knox and my husband and I have lived in East Greenbush for 40 years and for the past twelve years, we have lived and paid our taxes to the City of Rensselaer. I am not representing any particular organization; I am simply speaking to you as a tax payer in the City of Rensselaer, a very historic and poverty stricken city. I would like to encourage your Board to award the Capital District casino to the City of Rensselaer for the following reason: The deLaets Landing site is truly shovel-ready and has all of its approvals in place already so that the casino could be a reality very soon. This site is right on the banks of the Hudson River. A very beautiful view of the Albany skyline. The site is very conveniently located very close to the Amtrak Station, the Megabus, I-787, and I-90. The new convention center proposed in Albany will be right across the river, which will enable tourists to visit our State Capital and the new convention center, and those tourists will also be able to enjoy the new Hard Rock for a meal, the gaming, or just history of American music in a museum-like atmosphere. The City of Rensselaer surely qualifies for the casino on the basis of need. Evidence by the fact that we very little tax base as all of you know, I'm sure, and 71% of the children in our school qualify for government subsidized meal programs. The Hard Rock will be the stimulus for the future development of that beautiful riverfront property. Picture if you will, a lovely river walk with shops, restaurants, and a ferry possibly bringing tourist back and forth across the Hudson. It is the perfect site. I can't stress enough how much the casino in Rensselaer will benefit not only the City of Rensselaer by bringing all sorts of jobs to our people, but will also benefit the City of Albany and all of Rensselaer County. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to give you my thoughts.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Jonathan Shapiro.

Jonathan Shapiro: Gentlemen, thank you for this opportunity. I'm here to urge you to vote No on Capital View Casino in East Greenbush. Even the name is somewhat ironic given the fact that no casino has any windows so there won't be any Capital view. I have lived in East Greenbush for more than 30 years. It is by in large a suburban bedroom community where most folks work in Albany for the State or other businesses and professions. The average family income as you have already heard is approximately \$78,000 dollars making it one of the wealthier suburbs in Upstate New York. My understanding is that if casinos are meant to be placed in economical disadvantaged areas, East Greenbush does not fit that definition. Yes, the Town Government has financial issues and you have heard most of that has been due to mismanagement, but I want to be clear about this. The residents are largely doing well. Thank you. The Thompson Hill Road site is an unbelievable site to have picked to situate a casino. It is in a residential area that requires a spot zoning variance that would violate the town's zoning master plan. It would significantly increase traffic and noise in an area of single family homes. It is not rocket science to say that a casino would totally change the character of the existing neighborhood. And by the way, I don't live in that immediate neighborhood so this is not just another NMBE complaint. Contrary to the comments made by certain interested parties, there is a great deal of opposition to this project from local East Greenbush residents. Okay, I have attended several Town Board Meetings and the comments have been overwhelmingly negative when residents have been given the opportunity to speak. And sometimes we could not even get into the room but were forced to listen in from the hallway. So not all of us even got a chance to speak. As you know and as you have heard, despite an intense and well-financed lobbying effort by the casino, there has been a Petition that has been signed by over 3,000 people against the casino in East Greenbush and I promise not to repeat that more than once.

Male: Excuse me, do you roughly what percent of the signers are residents in East Greenbush?

Jonathan Shapiro: I don't have those numbers but I think that some of the other people here probably do.

Female: I would say 65 to 75% are East Greenbush residents.

Male: What percentage of the residents does it represent?

Jonathan Shapiro: The Town of East Greenbush has 16,000 people.

Male: What percentage of those 3,000?

Male: It's 20% of the adult population of East Greenbush.

Male: That's what I was looking for, thank you.

Jonathan Shapiro: And that's with a strictly grassroots unfinanced effort, door to door, mostly. I would also point out that, well actually, I'm going to save this because I don't need to point out what's happened with the Board Members. In addition, Capital View has in my opinion disingenuously already held a local job fair as well as a business fair to try and drum up support, even before a decision is made as to where the casino is located. Obviously, if you promise people jobs in advance and or more business for Fisher Grocery Store, for example, they will support this project. It is also highly questionable, even if the casino is built in East Greenbush that these thousands of jobs that we have heard about and revenue will accrue to this immediate area. As you are all probably aware, four casinos have recently closed in Atlantic City, including Revels, the newest one, at a cost of 2.4 Billion dollars. All casinos carry with them social costs. These include compulsive gambling and consequent debt, as well as an increase in violent crime, theft, home robberies, etc. None of these social costs have been mentioned in the rosy predictions of the casino developers. East Greenbush has a small police force. It has a voluntary fire department. Most of us live here because it is a safe, convenient place to live and a good place to educate and raise children. We like living in an area where we don't have to worry about break-ins to our houses and cars, as well as the possibility of our children being hit by a drunk driver. There is a strong possibility that a casino on Thompson Hill Road will change all of this. Any of the other sites being considered would make more sense than East Greenbush. I urge you to vote No to the casino in East Greenbush. Thank you.

(Clapping)..

Kevin Law: Thank you. Adam Lundin.

Adam Lundin: Thank you very much for your time. My name is Adam Lundin from BBL Hospitality and I'm here to speak in support of the Rivers Casino and Resort in Mohawk Harbor. BBL Hospitality is a local hospitality company although we have moved beyond the Capital Region in a few instances; our primary focus stays here with over 800 employees. The thought of a long time vacant site along the river becoming a site for a prime economic development including new retail, hotel, and casino operations is very exciting. It brings increased jobs and its impact on the community as well as the increase hospitality professionals and more opportunity for people within our company to grow. Not only will this new development drive significant new revenue to the City and County, it will also increase Schenectady's attraction by allowing more leisure travelers visibility to what else the area has to offer, such as Proctors Theatres and area restaurants. It's a very exciting project and we're happy to support it. Thank you.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Thank you. Is Kathy Sheehan here? The Mayor of Albany, Kathy Sheehan. Nice to meet you.

Kathy Sheehan: Thank you. Chairman Law, Gaming Facility Location Board Members, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to with you this afternoon. I am the Mayor of the City of Albany. Albany is a center of government, education, and health care. It is also a City of diverse historic neighborhoods and is home to more than 98,000 residents. Our city faces many of the challenges that Governor Cuomo is tackling with the Upstate New York State Gaming Economic Development Act. One in four of our residents and more than one in three of our children live below the poverty level. Our median income, high school graduation rates, and homeownership rates, all lag the state and the region. For many of our residents, the jobs provided by a casino in close proximity to Albany, hold the promise of transporting them out of poverty. Others are concerned that a nearby casino will lead to economic hardship as dollars leave the city and as social cost associated with problem gambling take their toll. As Mayor, I have listened to the concerns of our residents, businesses and cultural institutions, and I also commissioned a study of the potential impact of a nearby casino on the City of Albany. As a result, I identified three key elements that needed to be addressed for the city to support a casino application. First, direct impacts to the city must be mitigated. It is important to note that the city will not receive any direct revenue from a casino to offset increased infrastructure or operating expenses that could be associated with a casino immediately adjacent to the city. Second, it has been estimated that to offset the projected spending of Albany residents at a nearby casino, city residents would need to acquire between 14 and 16% of the jobs at a proposed casino. In order to do more than offset the revenue transfer, and factoring in the high unemployment rates in some of our most economically challenged neighborhoods, our expert recommends that the casinos near the Capital city adopt a 25% hiring target for Albany residents. Finally, the City of Albany has no permanent source of revenue for providing economic development grants and incentives. In order to enhance our ability to develop hotels, restaurants, retail, and entertainment venues that would augment a nearby casino, I have advocated for the direct payments from nearby casino operators earmarked for economic development. I am pleased to report that we have entered into a community benefit agreement with the Capital View Casino that addresses the needs I have outlined. If successful in acquiring a casino license, the Capital View Casino will provide Albany with \$11 Million Dollars in economic development funding over ten years. In addition, Capital View would target 25% of its jobs to Albany residents, provide job fairs, job training, and outreach in our most underserved neighborhoods, and has agreed to a target of \$5 Million dollars in local sourcing from Albany based businesses every year. Accordingly, I support the application submitted by Capital View and would support a siting determination in favor of that casino applicant. While my Administration has had extensive contact with other casino applicants, we were unable to reach definite agreement consistent with the principles I've outlined. Further, no other applicant was willing to provide unconditional economic stimulus or specific job and local sourcing targets equivalent to that of the Capital View proposal. It is important to note that the

New York State Funding Casino proposed for Rensselaer would sit literally in our front yard. It would be minutes from our lowest income neighborhoods and we anticipate that the casino would seek to create more direct access to our downtown resulting in added infrastructure and operating costs. Our independent study determined that the Rensselaer site would have the highest impact on Albany with City residents spending an estimated \$36.7 Million dollars annually at a Rensselaer casino. Although it is beyond dispute that its proposal would benefit from and is likely cited to take advantage of its proximity to the Capital City, New York State Funding has not committed to any specific targets or financial assistance to ensure that a casino in Rensselaer provides economic benefit to the City of Albany. Just last week, the Massachusetts Gaming Commission issued the sole Boston area casino license to Wind Resort Project in Everett, just over the line from Boston. Because Wynn had not reached a neighbor community agreement with Boston, to mitigate the impacts of the project in Boston, they placed several conditions on the application including \$76 million dollars in upfront and annual mitigation payments, and a \$15 million dollar local sourcing target. The City of Albany is in a similar position and I urge you to take into consideration the approach used in Massachusetts. In the absence of a mandate from this Commission similar to that enacted in Boston, the only applicant that has been the letter and spirit of Governor Cuomo's directive that casino projects target areas of the highest need, is that of Capital View and East Greenbush.

(Boos & Clapping)

Male: Mayor. First of all thank you for being here. What do you say to the critics who say Albany is taking some of the benefits but getting none of the detriments that the other communities are....

Kathy Sheehan: You know, the Legislation sites casinos in a region and is looking at the regional impact, so I'm speaking to those regional impacts as they impact the City of Albany, and as this Commission considers where it is going to site a casino, I'm speaking on behalf of the impact that we'll have on the largest city in the region and the city with among the highest poverty rates and the highest unemployment rates in the region.

Male: But what do you say to those across the river who say, You're leaving us with some of the detriments?

Kathy Sheehan: Those are the things that this committee and board has to consider and I am quite certain that you will be taking into consideration all of the impacts that a casino would have at each of the sites that are located in the region. So I can only speak to looking at the impact on the City of Albany and what we are looking for if there is going to be a casino proximate to the City, the importance of insuring that our residents have access to jobs and that any impacts that impact our city budget are mitigated. This could be an incredible opportunity for the City of Albany, but I think that we need to ensure that those benefits are ultimately realized.

Male: Mayor, do you think there's an opportunity to resurrect discussions with any of the other applicants? The Hard Rock, Rivers Projects for CBA with the City of Albany?

Kathy Sheehan: We certainly remain open to that and the Rivers Casino is not as proximate to the City of Albany. We've had discussions with the Rivers Casino operators and they do remain open to having further discussions with the City of Albany. We have focused really on the two very proximate casinos because of their close proximity to our city, and particular their close proximity to some of our most underserved communities. That's where we have focused our efforts. We remain open to having conversations with the proposal in Rensselaer. We were really looking for some significant commitments that were we could say had an actual agreement, unfortunately we weren't able to find that. They were seeking our exclusive support. I don't think that that's our role. This commission is going to decide where to site a casino. I really view my role as Mayor of Albany and the role of our City Government as informing you as to what we believe the impacts of each of the sites would be in the City of Albany.

Male: I'm sorry, why wasn't there a casino proposal for Albany?

Kathy Sheehan: There was originally the site that is in Rensselaer, those developers originally sought to develop a site that was located 100% within the City of Albany. We were supportive of that effort. We had long discussions with them about what that would mean for the City of Albany. Clearly our residents have some of the same concerns as you're hearing expressed by the residents of East Greenbush and ultimately though, the developer informed us that that site was not buildable. That even though it was something like 60 acres after they did their engineering studies and their geological studies, that only 17 acres were buildable, and even the acreage that was buildable was not stable soil, so they abandoned that site. We would have really I think in looking at the opportunities that that brought and weighing those against the challenges and the opposition that that would have been an ideal location. Unfortunately the developer chose a different site.

Male: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you for coming down Mayor.

Kathy Sheehan: Thanks.

Kevin Law: Next up Layton Cookson.

Layton Cookson: Good Afternoon and thank you for allowing me to speak to you. As a taxpaying homeowner in East Greenbush, I'm incredibly offended and find it very disingenuous that Mayor Sheehan, who is neither an East Greenbush resident or official, who rejected two proposals for casino in her city and who recently reached an agreement

with Capital View to receive \$11 million dollars and 25% of the casino job promised originally to East Greenbush residents, just asked you to issue you a license to that group for a casino. Capital View Casino contrary to what Ms. Cox told you during a presentation a few weeks ago has not been open and transparent throughout this process. How they portrayed themselves is quite different from what the people of East Greenbush have experienced. The citizens of East Greenbush and the public first became aware of this project in early to mid-April, following a hastily scheduled, quietly announced Town Board Meeting, when the Resolution in support of the casino was revealed moments before the meeting started. Since then, based on evidence and events which I've enumerated in my written statement to you, it's highly likely that East Greenbush Town Supervisor, Mr. Langley, Mr. Feathers, and Capital View were together organizing for this project as early as the beginning of February 2014, or as much as two months before the public got any word of this. Capital View downsized this project and this is something that others have said. Two or three times since April reducing the building size, reducing the promised permanent jobs from 1,700 to an estimated half or less, and the promised monies as well, but they didn't inform me that a Town Board or the public. East Greenbush Town Planning Board on September 10th, they told that Board they had planned on abandoning facility after it opens. At their presentation, Chairman Law, you asked them a question about their application. You made a comment that their application was the only one where there seemed to be opposition. Ms. Cox responded that the opposition was minimal and that Capital View didn't know and didn't pay much attention. That isn't true. After this project public in early April, there were two town meetings at Town Hall and a third meeting at the school auditorium, among others. At both meeting at Town Hall, the large meeting hall was packed to overflow, the hallways outside were packed and there were other people still waiting outside the building to speak. In spite of the fact that the second meeting by the way, occurred at 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon instead of the usual 7:00 PM time for that meeting. The meeting in the school auditorium was also packed with approximately 500 people. At all three meeting, 85 to 90% spoke against either a casino in East Greenbush, or specifically a casino on Thompson Hill Road. Ms. Cox and others from Capital View were at those meeting and they heard the comments. So they know what the opposition is. The opposition to their project is much, much larger than they want to admit or they want you to know. On their Gaming license, they included an endorsement from East Greenbush Superintendent Nagle. That the School Board Chairman, Dr Harrison and Dr. Nagle both vehemently denied providing. Dr. Harrison endorsed, signed a letter that was to you to your commission and he endorsed the fact that that was not true. This application also states that East Greenbush meet the mandatory economic standards needed and does not. This is just a sampling of what we've seen from Capital View. There is enough said, many more details in my statement and more beyond that. I and a vast number of fellow East Greenbushers are greatly disturbed and concerned by what we have witnessed. That they treat us and other like this with what amounts to the dating phase of this relationship, how will they treat us if you issue a gaming license witch they want and marry us? Based on what we've seen so far, the ___ over the people of East Greenbush and our town too. East Greenbush is made up of 16,000-17,000 people, a vast majority of whom at hard

working, middle income folks, who are honest and value integrity and ethical behavior still matters to them. I....

Kevin Law: Wrap up.

Layton Cookson: We are not compatible. If you grant the license to them you will force the people of East Greenbush into a marriage we don't want, into a casino we don't want, and especially a casino on Thompson Hill Road that we don't want. One that is situated closely and smack in the middle between the schools, the towns high school, a private school, and a girl scout camp on land that is not presently and never had been zoned for this kind of project. Please gentlemen, don't issue the license to this applicant.

(Clapping)

Layton Cookson: Just one other thing.

Kevin Law: You're done.

Layton Cookson: I just wanted to say publically thank you to Mr. Park. I'm a severally hearing-impaired person and I want to thank him for his efforts to put me here and actually try to connect me electronically. We didn't get to do that, but he should be thanked for than.

Kevin Law: Thank you and Thank you. Alright, Layton, good job. Who's next. Margo Heck. Hi Margo.

Margo Heck: Hello. My name is Margo Heck. I'm a 24 year resident of East Greenbush. I'm opposed to the development of the proposed casino in East Greenbush because it is in the wrong place. East Greenbush is a residential suburb of Albany. It's attractive mainly because it is residential. Five years ago, that area that is being proposed for this casino was a two lane road with a movie theater, one big box store and a few small stores. East Greenbush had one commercial corridor which was on the main route through town to Pittsfield, Massachusetts. There are a couple of horse pastures on Route 4. East Greenbush is rather unusually in the fact that we can find most of our commercial development to major corridors and haven't developed small strip malls everywhere. Now Route 4 is still a 2 lane road with several big box stores, small business, and a couple of strip malls along it. I would invite you to physically inspect the area, for yourselves, to see how uncharacteristic and out of place this proposed casino would be. This land is zoned residential buffer precisely to keep the development from getting out of control. Our town plan calls for it to remain residential buffer. And this why people have chosen it as a pleasant place to live, to build their homes and families. The majority of the East Greenbush residents opposed the development of a casino in our town. I am one of those people that has stood in the hot sun for hours to obtain signatures on the Petition that will be presented to you. What you won't see are the comments that I got

while I was requested people to sign the Petition. Things like, I will sign with gusto, with pleasure I'm going to sign this, keep up the good work, you guys are doing great work, thank you for doing this, and Thompson Hill is a stupid place for a casino. It was very easy to obtain as many as 120 signatures in a couple of hours. We've already heard estimates. My hearing is that there's at least two-thirds to three-quarters of the people in East Greenbush opposed to this casino as opposed a third maybe a quarter of the people that are supporting it. As you know, Thompson Hill borders a long time girl scout camp, a Montessori School, a nursing home, it's behind the high school. This isn't a good environment for these vulnerable populations. It's served by residential water, sewer and again, two lane road that already has three traffic lights and two circles trying to control the flow of traffic already. All the businesses on this road are closed by 9:00 PM or 12 midnight at the very latest. We like it that way. We don't want 24-hour traffic. No environmental studies have been performed to determine the impact that a casino would have on the aquifer or general environment, including light pollution. East Greenbush already has problems with our sewage system. It's not a recreational destination that's going to attract people from outside the area other than the casino advertising. This is not a destination recreation. People are not going to fly here from Europe to game in East Greenbush. Any then you've got Turning Stone, Tioga Downs, Foxwoods, Mohegan Sun, as well as Saratoga's Racino. These are all day trips that are accessible to these people if they really want a game. And then there's our town experience with the developer. We elected this new town board because of we wanted transparency in town business. But instead, this developer has encouraged them to limit public discussion because they fear the negative reaction. They know it's going to happen. The initial proposal was for a 12-story hotel with upscale dining, upscale shopping. Now it's downgraded to half of that, that was the submission they said to you. At the last Zoning Board meeting they're saying, Well we might expand. So what is it? This is classic Bait and Switch. The developers even held a charade of a Job Fair to lure people with false promises of jobs at some type of a casino which hasn't been given a license, hasn't been given the change if zoning laws, hasn't conducted an environmental impact, and it's at best two years away. So what are we talking about here? All the jobs located in Saratoga. This was just a crude attempt to garner public support for this project by preying on desperate jobseekers. They were also encouraging people to take on more debt because Schenectady Community College runs a gaming program...

Kevin Law: Margo, time's up.

Margo Heck: This developer has a very callus attitude toward the truth as well as the community there're attempting to kill. And make no mistake that the opposition to this casino comes from the residents of East Greenbush and the support for it comes from the promises of easy money outside of the area.

Kevin Law: Thank you very much.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Kathleen Trom (sounds like). Hi Kathleen.

Kathleen Trom: I'm going to be short and to the point.

Kevin Law: We don't mind short.

(Laughter)

Kathleen Trom: I want to thank you for the opportunity to address you regarding the proposed Capital View Casino in East Greenbush. As you are undoubtedly aware, there's a great deal of opposition to this casino from town residents. Unlike our board members, who without questions, swallowed the developers promises of financial gain hook line and sinker, the residents of East Greenbush have done our due diligence and compiled data revealing the effects of casinos on our host communities. The data doesn't show any long-term positive outcome for other communities who have hosted casinos and it certainly doesn't depict any long term economic growth. The negative effects of casino in their host communities has been reported over and over in the media recently, yet our town board has chosen to sacrifice our communities quality of life based on the promise of monetary compensation from developers who have no interest in our community. From the beginning of this process, the Town Board has chosen to work behind closed doors keeping residents in the dark about their intent to support a casino that would forever change the fabric of our town. The Board chose to put our town future into the hands of developers motivated by their own financial gain with no regard to the affects that this casino would have on the residents and the surrounding environment. It appears that our town Government will stop at nothing to achieve their goal. Thompson Hill Road is a residential neighborhood and is zoned a residential buffer, which prohibits the commercial development being proposed, yet the Board moves forward. Myself and the other East Greenbush residents opposed to this casino are fighting to save our town. There is no amount of money promised or implied that would cause us to sell out our way of life. I believe the East Greenbush Town Board knew that. The majority of residents would stand against this proposed casino, so they chose to eliminate us from the equation for as long a possible. There're actions have been manipulative and deceitful. And I am left wondering what they stand to gain by betraying their constituents. The intent of the proposed casinos in New York was to bring economic advancement to their host communities and in order to do that the casinos need to attract out of state tourists. Without these tourists the casinos will have to depend on local dollars to survive. East Greenbush has nothing to entice tourism. And that means the casino will need local dollars to survive thus defeating the base of concept of bringing new revenues to the State and Local Governments. East Greenbush does not want nor need this casino. Our community has expressed our opposition in every way possible and I hope that you will honor our wishes. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Sylvie Lang. (sounds like)

Sylvie Lang: Hi, my name is Sylvie Lang. I'm a resident in East Greenbush and I'm here speaking adamantly against the casino at East Greenbush. Since the very beginning it has been lies, deceit & a whole bunch of public outcry. When it first started, it was suppose to be 1,700 jobs for East Greenbush residents. When the submission got put into the Gaming Commission, it was down to 1,000 jobs. At that time, in the press, Saratoga Casino and Raceway stood up and said, If the casino is set up in East Greenbush, 50% of their profits are going to go down, so that means that 50% of people are going to lose job at Saratoga. There're just going to get relocated over to East Greenbush.. There're going to take a bunch of our jobs. Then Saratoga made a deal with Albany and said, We're going to give you a whole bunch of the profit and we're going to give your Albany residents 25% of the jobs. That now leaves 375 jobs for East Greenbush residents. It started at 1,700, it's down to 375. That's a drop of 78% in jobs promised. 78%, which is ridiculous. Second point. The Town Board and what happened with the votes. They started, they did their first vote when nobody in the Community had an idea that a casino was even possibly being considered for East Greenbush, and they voted 5-0. The community said, What the heck is going on here? How could this even be? We had no clue this was going on. But luckily the Gaming Commission stood up and said, We need you to vote again, and it needs to be site-specific. They held a meeting, they had a whole bunch public, they set up a public meeting at 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon, when everybody was working. They put us all in Town Hall where we all couldn't fit. They bused in people from Saratoga, paid employees, to say, Hey, we want this casino. But still the majority of people that were at that meeting said, We don't want this casino. Yet they still voted 5-0 yet again. But what happened is that the two times that they voted, it was totally illegal and totally wrong, because one of the Town Board members knew that she had a brother that was going to make money on the land, yet she still voted twice. Then we have another Town Board member who said I want this, this is going to be great for the town, and then started to see that it was Bait and Switch and changed her answer and said, I don't want this anymore. So now you've got two members out of a five board that now suddenly is not for this casino, so that 5-0 vote never actually existed. Now lets talk about the East Greenbush school district. They said specifically, we're not going to make a stand. We're not going to be for, we're not going to be against. We're going to be totally neutral. What did Saratoga do? They took their comments out of context, put it in the press to make it seem like they supported the casino. Well luckily the School Board stood up and said, No, that is not what we said, we're not supporting a casino, so luckily Saratoga had egg on their face. Now the fourth thing that happened, the public outcry. Saratoga said, No, hold one meeting because this way you're going to minimize negativity. That information got out luckily through four notes, they didn't want us to know that information, but the point is when those meeting happened at the Town Board to different presentations and so on, 80-85% of the people that spoke were against the

casino. Even when Saratoga kept busing in their employees and everything, and speak for it, speak for it, we were all still, No, we don't want it. So I could speak for another five days, fifty days, but I know that I have a minute and a half right now. The whole point is, any logical person would look at the four things that I said and say, Why didn't any of this stuff knock East Greenbush out of contention? How could you have all of this illegal action, all of these violations of open meeting law? All of these things that just, how is it even conceivable? Another big thing is, how is East Greenbush even a good community for setting this up. Our median household income is \$78,000. That does not qualify as a community in need. So it shouldn't of even been on the map before. So I just ask you, take us off the map. We should not be considered here. We do not want a casino in East Greenbush. Not now and not ever! Thank you.

(Cheering & Clapping)

Kevin Law: Thank you Sylvie. The last speaker for this morning's session will be Peter Sokaris.

Peter Sokaris: Thank you for the opportunity for me to speak to the, lets see, you call yourself the Gaming Facility Location Board.

Male: We didn't give ourselves that name.

Peter Sokaris: If you had given yourselves a name, you would of honestly called yourself, the Gambling Board, rather than the Gaming Board, because these casinos are really not entertainment. These casinos are exploitation and the only people who make money are the billionaire owners of the casinos. Almost everyone loses fifty buck a week could be \$2,500 a year, \$100 bucks a week could be \$5,000 a year and the people who lose, the very few people who win small amounts of money go back in future weeks to lose the money they won. So this is gambling, it's exploitation of the middle-class and the poor. I wish to register my indignation and protest regarding my Mayors, Mayor Sheehan, her support for a gambling casino in the Capital District. I was born and raised here in Albany. I lived on South Pearl Street, which was one block away from Green Street. In the forties and fifties and even in the sixties, Albany was a notorious for the Green Light District, which was located on Green Street. Now, gambling in some ways has a lot in common with prostitution. Women sell their bodies and make money and it's illegal. When I was growing up in the forties and fifties, it was illegal to make a bet on a horse or to bet on the numbers. If you wanted to do that, you had to go to a bookie because it was illegal. What happened was, the State Government changed the law and created Off-Track Betting for people who were addicted and who wanted to gamble on horses without going to Saratoga. The State Government also created the New York State Lottery, so that those of us who want to buy gas, now have to wait in line for people buying their lottery tickets. Okay, so our culture has changed. Instead of calling yourselves the Gambling Commission, you call yourselves the Gaming Commission and instead of calling casinos Gambling, we say its entertainment and people need this and

the Government also gave our churches and synagogues permission to have Bingo, Bell Jars, Raffles, and other forms of gambling. So over the last fifty years, things have changed. I've have written letters to Governor Cuomo and I'm going to be submitting copies of them. I have written letters to our County Executive, Dan McCoy, and I'll submit a copy, and I've also had letters published regarding Professor Earl Ganoyes who reports that 52% of casino gambling revenues are from problem or pathological gamblers. And these people constitute only about 7% of the gambling clients. I don't want my neighbors in the City of Albany spending \$36 Million Dollars a year just because Mayor Sheehan wants to get a million dollars a year from Rensselaer. I think that's immoral, I think that it's outrageous and I think it's exploitation of City of Albany residents by the billionaires who want to make money on us and who want to exploit us. So we did have a Mayor, Mario Cuomo, who when he delivered his democratic national convention address, talked about democracy, work ethic and making it a better world for our children. I don't think gambling is going to make it a better world for our children anymore that prostitution would make it a better world for our children. And with those words, I wish to thank you for listening.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

Male: I would just like to say with obvious, the five of us did not authorize casino gambling in the State of New York. There were two consecutive elections to amend the State Constitution that passed and there was a Legislation pursuant to that, that passed.

Peter Sokaris: All I'm ...

Male: I'm not arguing, I'm just saying it's not the five of us who decided that we should have casinos in New York State.

Peter Sokaris: A brief response. The Mayor deceived us in telling us that it would provide jobs, money for education, and lower taxes, because she knows that it failed elsewhere and they will fail here.

(Clapping)

Kevin Law: Folks, we are now taking our break from the morning. We will start at 1:00 PM sharp.