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Kevin Law: Good morning. My name is Kevin Law and I'm the chairman of the casino location siting board and joining me today to my right are members of the board Paul Francis and Dennis Glazor. On the phone with us is Stewart Rivitalitz and Bill Thompson is in route and will be joining us in a couple minutes. We thank you for coming. We spent yesterday in Albany. Twelve hours of hearings for the proposed projects up in the capital region and we're gonna have the same exact drill as we did there, and as we will do up in Ithaca tomorrow. We are going to try to get everybody who wants to speak. Is that me? No that's not me. We're going to try to give everybody that wants to speak a chance to speak. People will be limited to five minutes of course if you do not use your entire five minutes we will appreciate that and it will allow for more people a chance to speak. There will be sort of two lists I'll be working off of to allow folks to speak. Folks, a lot of folks registered for particular time slots over the last couple of weeks to sign up to speak, and then some folks just signed up for today. So at the top of each hour we're going to take five people who registered to speak, and we'll take them, then we'll go to the list of people that signed up today, then we'll go back at the next top of the hour to the five that pre-registered and so on throughout the day. In terms of what we've done so far, two weeks ago we heard from all the applicants for their proposed projects in the three different regions that will be entitled to have potential casino locations there, and this week we're hearing from the public. We would ask you to respect one another, to respect us, we're going to respect you, five of us are volunteers here, we're not state employees we're volunteers serving on the board and we're going to treat you with respect and we ask you to treat each other and us with respect. Try to keep your comments to your particular projects, whether you're apposed or in favor, as opposed to personalities, so to tell you what worked yesterday and what resonated with us and what didn't. You know when people got up there and talked about this politician was corrupt, or this processor. You know we're not here to hear that, we're here to hear what your feelings are about the potential impacts, pro or con to your communities, and that will resonate with us more than personality type issues. One last thing, I see a lot of you have signs, the signs are fine but don't hold any up with wood and block your neighbor's vision, and that's fine. So we're gonna get right to the program. Rob did I miss anything?

Rob: Nope, you're good.

Kevin Law: Good? You guys all set?

Other members of the board: All set.

Kevin Law: All right, so and then we're gonna ask that when you come up, identify who you are and what particular proposed casino you're commenting on. After a while we'll sort of we'll get the feel for it but dependent upon the shirt you're wearing or the sign you may be coming from the particular row. So we're gonna start uh the first one is Brian Maher, the Mayor of the village of Walden. And we even keep all elected officials to the time slot as well so thank you Brian.

Brian Maher: That was really funny. Good morning everyone, definitely very color coordinated room today. My name is Brian Maher I'm here actually wearing two hats, the first of which is as an aid to New York State Senator Bill Larkin. Senator Larkin represents the thirty ninth senate

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district which encompasses parts of orange, Ulster, and Rockleigh counties. In that regard the senator just wanted for me to represent him here today and make it clear that he is in support of hopefully two casinos coming to any of the six that are in Orange County and also as he represents a portion of Ulster the Nevele Resort Projects in Ulster County and he is equally hopeful that all of those communities will be able to benefit from the jobs and the economic boost that this casino destination resort will provide. That's the senate hat, now taking that off and putting on as the mayor of the village of Walden, it is my honor honestly to be able to work with some great people that represent Genting and while they have two projects, one in Tuxedo, which has been touted as being very lucrative, the Montgomery site is the one that I want to champion here today. As Mayor of the Village of Walden not just will we see a direct economic benefit but there's something that's an underlying tone that I would like to speak to if I could, and that's the, the kind of momentum that we're missing. When people talk in black and white when they talk about points it's easy to talk about jobs, how many it's going to create, each one of these projects are gonna have people and experts stand up here and say "we're gonna create the most jobs, we're gonna create the most money, and we're gonna have the most impact," and in a lot of cases that's gonna be true for a lot of different areas. But for me in the Village of Walden you have a place in the town of Montgomery that used to be the number three knife manufacturer in the entire country, back in the late eighteen hundreds and early nineteen hundreds. We had an identity, a lot of communities in the Town of Montgomery area had a specific identity and since that time, through a lot of different hardships and a lot of different reasons we've lost that identity. And while we tried to re-create it over the last hundred years a lot of things have tried and a lot of things have failed. What a destination resort would do in the town of Montgomery to benefit the Village of Walden, Village of Montgomery, Village of Maybrook, the town portion outside the villages, and our neighbor the city of Newburg, which is at the most important point in its, in its time honestly, in this region. It would be absolutely a miracle worker. It would. We believe that. Our leaders believe that. My fellow colleagues from the Montgomery, Maybrook, Newburgh area hopefully will, will be saying similar things about what this casino could bring and to me it stands out against the other projects because of just the personal attention that we've all gotten. A lot of people have promised things, a lot of agreements have been put together about what's going to happen in the future but Genting has really stood out in the fact that they've put their money where their mouth is right now. And that's something that we listen to, that's something that we see, and that's something that we appreciate as residents. We don't believe that this is something that will come and go. We believe our community and the Village of Walden and the greater Town of Montgomery area will be able to support this, whether or not casinos come to New York City. And that's something that I'm here to tell you, not just as a point, not just as a line, but something I truly feel in my heart. And I truly honestly believe that if a casino is awarded, to Genting and Town of Montgomery, with its proximity as well to Stewart Airport and the possibilities of that international airport, what it can be, what we know we want it to be. It's just a home run in every sense of the word, and I cannot stress enough just how much I believe this will also positively impact a place like the city of Newberg which is a place that I was born in and raised in. And I can't even tell you just how many stories my father tells about being born and raised in the city of Newberg and it was a different place. And if we want the city of Newberg to come back, if we want the greater Montgomery area to come back, you know, we gotta make sure this project

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happens, and this one specifically, Genting and Montgomery. I think they're a great company, they've shown great initiative and leadership and who they've hired as consultants. They're great friends of mine and people that I trust. And because of that with the numbers they have on paper, with the feeling that we get in our hearts as a community that they will be here for us always. I truly endorse and would like to take a leadership role in making sure that we get Genting of Montgomery a casino license. And enjoy the rest of the day and please thank you for your time. From the senator and myself as Mayor of the Village of Walden. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you mayor. Next is Kathy Herbert.

Kathy Herbert: Hello, thank you for making this possible. I live in Laurel Ridge. I've lived there for twenty years, and in that twenty years I've seen a lot of changes that are not particularly welcome. I've seen the industry that existed in our area leave, office buildings and corporate buildings go vacant, and businesses go under. Our taxes have gone up. Our property values have deteriorated. And even with the bubble and the post bubble and a little bit of recovery, we're not seeing it. So it's sort of like even though we see Tuxedo as a prosperous area, it has declined and the infrastructure is very lacking. A friend called me recently, she'd seen a real estate listing for a property in Laurel Ridge, and she said "isn't this near you?" and I said "yeah it's next door," and she said "why is it so inexpensive, what's wrong with it?" and I explained a little bit about what's going on in the town. The fact that so much of our industry has gone, nothing has replaced it and that it really was an area that looked great on paper until you start delving into it. We have a lot of beauty, we have a great forest, we have all the things that we know about. We have a decrepit ski resort that hasn't been updated in fifty years. We have a renaissance festival that's kinda working ok but could be so much more and, my feeling, personally, is that if this project that's proposed to port Tuxedo does not pass, we are looking at a continued decline, a continued deterioration and that includes our town, the area of northern Tuxedo and I am the area that is really impacted by this. I feel that it's very important that this happen. People talk about the traffic. I don't know if anybody has tried to commute on Route 17 recently but it's a nightmare. We have trucks trying to beat the tolls, potholes, it's like adventure city every day and I think the throughway exchange is pivotal for our area to grow and to really become competitive to other areas. You know, you talk about light industry and people say "oh there are other things that this privately owned property can be used for" and well you can just say that nobody in their right mind is going to put in a business where you can't get in and out. Just to get from one place to the other in that area without a throughway exchange is very difficult. So instead of IBM. Instead of international paper. We have the watch tower and the only thing that can come into our area are non-profits and businesses that are not going to contribute very much to the tax base. So I feel like this really has to happen economically. And when you think objectively about what else could go into the forest and compliment it, there're not a lot of options. You know I don't think. It's been vacant for fifty years. So if anybody was gonna build a great place for outdoor activities that would have happened. The access to the area is so limited because there is no throughway exchange that even something like upscale housing is not gonna happen. So we're looking at Watch Tower part two, high density housing, or other things that will have a far greater impact on the forest. You know I value the forest, it's terribly important, but I think this project has the greatest opportunity to save it and make it great, and also to build

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on an international market. The other casinos, the ideas that it can cannibalize other areas, mom and pop businesses on Main Street. This is focused as a beyond the region, you know bringing in an international presence from Asia and Genting is so positioned to do that so that you have something that built brings audiences from New Jersey but also from across the world and contributes, also builds on what we already have at Woodbury Commons, that has a tremendous international presence. So I think that this casino in particular is positioned to do things that none of the others can, which is build a whole different kind of market, international upscale profitable enduring and from a company that has a tremendous track record in doing that. Thank you very much.

Paul Francis: Thank you. Kathy can I ask you a question?

Kathy Herbert: Sure.

Paul Francis: I'm having trouble finding Laurel Ridge on my map

Kathy Herbert: Oh well it's a mile and a half from the site.

Paul Francis: Which direction?

Kathy Herbert: You turn off 17, go up 17A. Clinton Woods is on one side of the road, Laurel Ridge is on the other. That's the communities that are right next door to it.

Paul Francis: Maybe this'll put you on the map.

Kathy Herbert: Well we already are on the map as far as we're concerned, but I think this will be a benefit to us.

Paul Francis: Thank you

Kathy Herbert: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Next is Deana Steele.

Deana Steele: Good morning, I'm Deana Steele, Tuxedo Park New York, and i have three concerns with respect to the Sterling Forest Resort. Water, water, and water. That is storm water, water supply, and water quality. The proposed site of the Sterling Forest resort is in the nationally significant interstate Ramapo River watershed. Designated in 1992 by the U.S. CPA is a sole source aquifer, because in part there were no economically feasible alternate drinking water sources. Over two million people in New Jersey and New York rely on the Ramapo River for drinking water. Increasingly water experts believe Sterling Forest Resort will negatively impact that watershed and further study and possible EPA intervention will be required to assure protection of the watershed. Building Sterling Forest resort in a money grabbing rush puts the Ramapo River watershed at risk. The wetlands and flood plans of Sterling Forest Resort

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proposed to be built, while not perfect are a cost effective and essential means of trapping and slowing down excess water during storms. Sterling Forest Resort has proposed measures of storm water management that essentially pass the problems downstream. Such as expanding the size of the culvert leading off the existing flood storage area, sending storm water unhindered down to the Ramapo River, eliminating any benefit of flood water storage upstream. One can expect flooding to be even worse downstream. Just ask metro north and the new throughway what they think about the potential for more storm water runoff and more frequent flooding of the Ramapo River damaging train lines and highways. Unfortunately the impact of storm water runoff is not limited solely to sites specific, to the site. Increased traffic will deposit more toxic material on the roadways, such as salt, sand and other de-icy chemicals during the winter. There will be increased risk of toxic spills during construction and removal of solid waste of the resort's water treatment plant. The vehicles filling the eight thousand car parking facility will deposit litter, atmospheric pollution, gasoline motor oil, and heavy metals along the roadways. All of that what deposits will be washed off into the Ramapo River, compromising water quality. Increasingly basic questions are being asked by the experts about the amount of water available. The New York State department of health has questioned the drainage area of the Indian Kill reservoir, the water source for the Sterling Forest Resort. The safe yield of the reservoir has been calculated using an outdated definition. That is the expected amount of water that could be continuously drawn during a drought period comparable to that experience in the mid-1960s. A worse drought has occurred in 2001-2002, what does that mean? Further the traditional safe yield definition is widely discredited for not taking into account the ecologic ecological integrity of the whole stream and probably results in an overstatement of the actual Indian kill reservoir safe sustainable yield. Also troubling is the express concerned express by Orange County New York in 2009 that even estimates of safe yield are not possible due to lacking documentation. Finally, not all the water taken from the Indian kill will be put back into the Indian kill. Some will be used for snow making and irrigation on site, thereby reducing the amount of water flowing into the Ramapo River and in turn reducing the amount of water available to recharge that sole source aquifer. Plus this waste water, not suitable for drinking that is being put back into the environment. Either directly on the land surface of the water shed or into the Indian kill could have, amongst other things, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, and endocrine disruptors. Very disturbing for a state park that was saved because of its high level of biodiversity. And I want us all to note that Genting intends to discharge this waste water below the reservoir to reduce the risk of contaminating the whole resort's drinking water. No worries at Sterling Forest Resort about discharging waste water that could contaminate and certainly lower the quality of the water in the Ramapo, especially at times of drought. I'd like to end with a quote from Julio Bachalette at the Nature Conservancy, "Water is the thing that we all take for granted. We use it freely and we forget that nature provided it in the first place. Our blindness to this risks our own future. I hope the location board is not blind to the water risk of the proposed resort in the Ramapo River water shed and does not undermine our own future by choosing Sterling Forest Resort." Thank you very much.

Paul Francis: Deana, Deana can I ask you a question? Can I ask you a question? You sound very much up on the subject, where do you gather your information and expertise from?

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Deana Steele: Well I spent Sunday afternoon at the New York Public library reading documents. I've been online. I've listened to water experts speak. I've read letters that have been written. I am a Geography Major. I have an MBA. I'm a resident. I have no expertise in this; I tried to document everything that I got.

Paul Francis: I get it, I asked really to find out not to argue with you. Have you presented these issues to the people making the proposal for the Sterling Forest Resort?

Deana Steele: The water quality issues?

Paul Francis: Yes.

Deana Steele: Yes. Yes.

Paul Francis: Okay and I just wanted to make sure they have

Deana Steele: They're also being presented to the EPA.

Paul Francis: Okay I just wanted to make sure they have them so that if asked they can respond to the issues as well. Thank you very much.

Deana Steele: Thank you for signing by saying they could use bottled water.

Kevin Law: Thank you dear. Folks, there's a lot of folks speaking in the back, you wanna take your sidebar conversations outside, or we will find out what project you're in support of or opposed to and will hold it against you. Be respectful to your neighbors because it's tough to us here to hear the speakers if there's a lot of sidebar conversations going on so take it outside please. Next up, Leonard Distell, supervisor of the town of Warwarsing.

Leonard Distell: Good morning. I'm Leonard Distell, Supervisor of the Town of Warwarsing. As a lifetime resident of the town, I have seen the changes in the past fifty years. The hotel industry once defined our community. But those vibrant businesses are now mostly a distant memory. The factories that once employed over seventeen hundred of our friends and neighbors are not closed. Unemployment is 18% in the town of Warwarsing and the Village of Ellenville. And due to the high unemployment rate, Warwarsing has one of the most expensive public assistant budgets in our county. We need jobs. The legislation that was passed to create casino gambling was designed to uplift economically challenged areas with high unemployment. The Town of Warwarsing and Village of Ellenville symbolize communities this legislation was intended to help. We need to attract new businesses to the area that will put people back to work. Today I ask the gaming commission for your support for a license for the Nevele Resort Casino and Spa so we can create two thousand much needed jobs in the town of Warwarsing and the Village of Ellenville. The project will not only create jobs but it will serve as the beginning of an economic revival for our community. Every day I meet someone in town, in my office, or I receive a phone call stating they are looking for employment. And I say to them "we have a chance, we have a

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chance. Be Patient, be patient. Jobs may be on their way.” Our residents want this project. I have over seventeen years of public service and over this period of time our local leaders have worked to improve our infrastructure, which includes public water and sewer projects including a new filtration plant. We have just been approved for a USDA grant and loan amount of three million eight hundred and forty six thousand dollars for the Hamlet of Kerhonkson, which includes new water tanks, water meeting, water meters and much more. We have also worked closely with our highway department to obtain our road network. We are ready for the Nevele. In addition we have many tourist attractions and attractive qualities that show our community is ready. First, our environmental resources are second to none. Lippman Park has some of the most extensive bike trail networks in the region. Our rail trail extends through many parts of our town and continues to expand and Sam’s Point Preserve is so gorgeous that words cannot truly do it justice. We have dozens of fantastic and unique restaurants that highlight the creative ingenuity of our business leaders. Our Shadowland Theater offers the best plays in Hudson Valley. We also have other unique resources like hang-glider industry, many golf courses, a very well-run hospital, and a small airport. But despite the many things we have and the many business working hard in different sections of our economy, the fact remains that our community has a steadily high 18% unemployment rate. We have worked closely with the management of the Nevele Resort Casino and Spa and have completed the environmental impact studies. They are shovel ready. In closing, I would like to say the Nevele project has united the Town of Warwarsing and the Village of Ellenville like no other issues in the past fifty years. Earlier this year our residents sent thousands and thousands of letters to Albany wishing their support. When rallies and events are held in support to Nevele Project our citizens always come out in great numbers to show their enthusiasm. The entire community has time and time again declared in one voice, we want and we need the Nevele Casino. Let’s put thousands of residents in the Town of Warwarsing and the Village of Ellenville back to work. Please support a casino at the Nevele and help us begin our economic revival. I want to thank the gaming commission for giving me this opportunity to speak and express my views. Thank you.

Kevin: Thank you supervisor. Next up is James Bates. Is James here? Yep. James? Oh you’re walking up. We’re off to a good start, we’ve had two elected officials step, stayed within the five minutes that means everybody can. Right? Okay so let’s go.

James Bates: Hello my name is James Bates. I own ecological analysis. We’re an ecological and environmental planning firm. We word from Westchester the whole way up through Binghamton and Chenango Counties. I’m here to offer what I think is a unique perspective. I’m not a born and raised Hudson River person. I was raised in western Pennsylvania. I came to this area about twenty five years ago. Since I got here they’ve been talking about casinos to the cats guts. That’s why I’m here. I go and as I said I work in all these counties. If you drive through these counties looking for places of business, you can find out that only Sullivan county doesn’t have a cluster of the things. Ulster County has the Hudson River. Orange County has the Woodbury area. They all have something. Take a drive through Sullivan County. Unfortunately since the old hotels left, there’s nothing there. When I go to planning board meetings for new developments and things like that, I hear code enforcement officers tell me they’re getting really good at tearing old buildings and old hotels. That’s not something to be proud of, but it’s a fact. I look at the area,

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and Sullivan County is a beautiful area. Some as gorgeous as I think as western Pennsylvania and the Allegheny Mountains. There are people trying to do things in there, however a casino in that area would bring jobs and something they're quite used to from the old resort communities. There is a stable workforce that is ready to go back to work; I see it in planning board meetings. The towns are being environmentally conscious, they're looking at ways to make sure they can treat sewage, have water, and all the amenities for these areas. I've talked to many people within the state and everything else, the new seeker rules and everything else show that everything is going to be handled correctly. As an ecologist I look around and these old resort communities, they're perfect for redevelopment and that's what I think we look at is redevelopment and reuse of places. Both areas of the concord were hotels. They're perfect to be reused as hotels. The traffic is set up for it. Everything is set up for it. That's pretty much why I'm here. If you have any questions I'd be happy to answer them.

Paul Francis: As between the proposals for the.

James Bates: I would support both casinos in Sullivan County, just because of the reuse and the adaptation of those areas. And as I said the traffic infrastructure is there. The water and sewers are there. I believe they're both shovel ready and the communities are ready for them, and they've been ready for them for twenty years.

Paul Francis: You're here for the area, not for a specific proposal.

James Bates: That's correct.

Dennis Glazor: Yeah I was gonna ask a question and maybe make a general comment. I assume that you're then professionally connected to any of the applicants?

James Bates: I am not.

Dennis Glazor: Okay. I would ask that when people speak, if you do have a professional connection, or being paid to any of the applicants, if you could just, it won't be held against you, but if you could just describe that when you open. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you James.

Paul Francis: And also when you get up to the podium, just tell us which proposal you're speaking about would be very helpful.

Kevin Law: Okay so now we're going to the other list of people who signed up today and the first person who signed up today James Petro.

James Petro: Hi my name is Jim Petro and I'm from the town of New Windsor in Orange County and I here am today just speaking as a citizen of the town and I wanna talk about our site a little bit which would be the green track site at the airport. Just imagine in your mind if you could

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have a site that has a brand new fifty five million dollar highway, four lane highway, that was built to re-energize the engine, economic engine of the Orange County area, and it's built it's theirs, ready to go, right into the front door of a casino project. It's there; you can go there today and drive on it. It was built for three thousand cars an hour. I think that'd be a nice problem to have. It's approximately two miles from Interstate 84. One red light. The throughway. And it's ready to go. It's been paid for by New York State. Number two, let's imagine a site where the entire seeker process is closed out, is complete, ready to go and is actually less of an impact than was made for the original user, International Plaza, is ready to go it's done. There's building permits in hand already for demolition. Planning process is almost complete. Water, sewer, and drainage complete. So all set. Roads are in. Curbs are in. We are ready to build with a permit in hand. If I said all that to you you'd just say well you're just making that all up. The new road by the way would take about 85% of all the traffic and would impact the outer area, not at all. That's why it had a 5-0 vote at the town board. Ready to go. So I am a really excited about the site at Orange County. At the airport, Stewart International Airport. It's been touted since I was a boy. Sixty years ago it was the economic engine of the county. It's time to make it so. We have a great company and Greenetrack they're ready to go. East Yucca County in Alabama was number sixty six out of sixty seven, now it's thirty two out of sixty seven. What more could you ask of a company, a minority owned company. The only one here, I say that we have the best site. It should be looked at with a hard look. In Orange County it's ready to go and new Windsor is ready to go. Thank you very much.

Kevin Law: Thank you Jim. Donna Hocklin.

Donna Hocklin: Hi there, Donna Hocklin I'm a resident of Hudson Valley as well. As a female small business owner and a lifelong resident, I stand before you today in support of the Grand Hudson. When I met Luther in early 2014 his story reminded me of myself. I started my business PATTYCAKE PLAYHOUSE that, I now have three locations, one in the Town of Newburgh, one in Fishkill, and one in Windsor. My pre-schools serve hundreds of families in the Orange County area. And as a woman owned business I fully understand that there is a need and a focus for MWBs and the important is the initiative and priority of New York State for that. Luther, when I got to meet him and his team, and I knew it was the right one for our area, casino. He's committed to Orange County, the surrounding regions. He is committed to providing good jobs. Good qualified paying ones bare wage benefits. I support the Grand Hudson because of their record in Alabama. I did my own research and as Mr. Petro had said, he brought them thirty some spots up in the county, in the state. For Hudson Casino as well, they all have a proven record and the location Stewart Airport. Having grown up here I've heard for forty years how Stewart Airport was gonna be our hero. And it's time to bring that true. The Grand Hudson is the only casino at the airport, truly on the airport. I ask the commission look at the facts and not the fanfare, and if you look at that you'll see why Grand Hudson is the number one choice. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you very much. Alright thank you Donna next up is Doreen Broadmurkle.

Doreen Broadmurkle: You said my name correctly, thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

Doreen Broadmurkle: My name is Doreen Broadmurkle and I'm an Orange County resident for forty three years. I've lived in the town of Cornwall, New Windsor for twenty years. I've gone to school here locally, I obtained my master's in business administration from Maris College and I used that to create two businesses with my husband. So we are a small business owner. We started out with five employees, we now have twenty five employees and are about to start our third business. So I personally know what small business means to a local community. Not only do we employ twenty five people but we use our local facilities. The banks, the restaurants, the dry cleaners. So we help our local community thrive. With that being said we encourage our employees to also use local services. So I know what it can mean for the Grand Hudson Casino and Resort to come into our area and help it prosper. With any decision or any project there are pros and cons and there are some things that do scare me, but I think that the pros outweigh the cons and in reading Greenetrack's proposal they do plan to partner with local business. That means a lot to me and my family. So I fully support this. I think that Donna is right; there hasn't been a fully leveraged plan to create a better airport. Stewart Airport is under-utilized as far as I'm concerned and that can be used to bring better business to our area as well. So I'm in full support. I hope you guys look at that and consider that for the small businesses in our area can mean a lot.

Dennis Glazor: Great.

Doreen Broadmurkle: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Well thank you very much.

Doreen Broadmurkle: And I kept my comments short.

Kevin Law: Very Good. We give extra points for people who do. Next up is Tiffany Rasbury.

Tiffany Rasbury: Good morning. I'd actually like to pass my time onto Donna Deets.

Kevin Law: To Donna who?

Tiffany Rasbury: Deets.

Kevin Law: Did you previously sign up or are you just passing?

Tiffany Rasbury: I'm just passing.

Kevin Law: Okay I just wanted to know if I could cross her name off for later.

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Donna Deets: Good morning I'm Donna Deets and I'm speaking as a resident of the town of Newburg for the Grand Hudson Casino and Resort. I live in the town of Newburg on Rockhut Road. I'm a housewife, retired from corrections so I do have a work history. But what I've noticed with the town of Newburg is that, with Stewart Airport especially, is that there is a lot of vacant land around there and it would be great to see it utilized. It would really help the community with jobs. I have grown children in the community. Friends that are really hard hit by this, you know our economics and losing jobs or getting their hours cut so if this casino could bring in more jobs of course we're all for it. I would love to see the Stewart Airport area utilized more. There's a lot of vacant land. The roadways are pretty much brand new going in there so I don't think there's really gonna be a problem with traffic. So I would just love to see it for our economic growth for the community. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you Donna. Let the record reflect that our commission member and friend Bill Thompson has joined us. Bill thank you. Next up Darrell Caplin.

Darrell Caplin: First of all I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity. Gentleman my name is Darrell Caplin. I'm a seventy six year old lifelong resident of Sullivan County and have been waiting for forty years to stand here today before you. I was third generation in a family owned business land supply and commercial laundry and for sixty years employed seventy five people doing the work for the hotels. Today we do not exist. I was the last generation. Sullivan County deserves two casinos. No other county has worked longer or harder or needs it more than Sullivan County. Casinos are our baby. We have two shovel-ready sites adjacent to each other. Each one can complement each other and a dual relationship strong enough to counter the threat of a New Jersey metaling facility. All over America McDonald and Burger King prove that this works, two complimenting each other and working together. Sullivan County has a pristine environment. We export our pure water to New York City, but the purity of our air only exists in our county. The Delaware River. The Neversink River. We have the oldest suspension bridge in the United States, the Roebling Bridge crossing the Delaware River. That used to be part of the D&H Canal system which in the 1800s brought coal from Pennsylvania to New York City, right through Sullivan County. Bethel Woods has a famous art center where the most famous people in the world come. We have trout fishing. We have the largest collection of bald eagles in the whole eastern seaboard. We have more gulf courses than anyone in the New York State area. Sullivan County has more golf courses than anyone. The town of Fallsburg, I used to be on the planning of \_\_\_\_\_ of Sullivan County. A gentleman from New York State could not believe that the Town of Fallsburg has two eighteen hole golf courses the only \_\_\_\_\_ the whole state of New York. Route 17 soon to be 86 brings cars and access to our resort destination. Sullivan County has only seventy five thousand people. We bring in thirty four million in sales tax revenue. Compared to Orange County they have four times the population that we have, and have a cash cow called Woodbury Commons which brings in three hundred and forty million dollars of sales tax revenue to them. Their problems, economic problems, are self-inflicted. They're the only county that has an abandoned government center. They're the only county that has built a solid waste facility out of Wetlands. A casino in Orange County would only exacerbate the traffic problem because of its close proximity to New York City. There is no need to stay over, you could go right back. This would enhance the problems of

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having traffic problems in Sullivan on 17. Excuse me for one second. We have waited too long, fought too hard, and we are deserving of any other county more so than anyone. Casino that deserved in Sullivan County, please we just, place it there. Give us what we've been working for for forty years. Thank you so much.

Kevin Law: Thank you Darrell. Alex Timus. Is Alex here? Sorry Alex. Robert Dadrus. Is that Robert walking up?

Robert Dadrus. Good morning. So my name is Robert Dadrus I'm the owner of Dadrus Architects, a family owned business that my parents actually opened in Liberty over forty years ago. Also the past president of the Liberty Chamber of Commerce and been on that board for over twenty years. I'm here today not only representing my own support from \_\_\_\_\_ at the concord but to share with you why Sullivan county is the, and the region around it, has it's only chance at economic recovery through the revitalization of its tourism economy. I grew in the Catskills, my family spent countless weekends, summers, and vacations enjoying the region through the thriving activities and entertainment that were available at the height of the Catskills tourism economy. This is why it's so frustrating and discouraging to watch the region fall into prolonged disrepair. I cannot tell you how many times Liberty and the surrounding communities have seen the light at the end of the tunnel, only to have these opportunities stripped away. Just earlier this year Liberty is one of the towns and running for the gaming license until other places like Orange County entered the race. The Catskills have seen a real sort of depression over the last thirty years while other places like Orange County have actually thrived pretty well. If there's one thing I've learned over the years from my childhood up through the leadership of the Liberty Chamber is that the Catskills is meant to be a tourist destination. Hospitality, tourism, and entertainment is in our blood. It's what we know and what we excel at. I can assure you here that there is no other workforce more skilled, ready, and debt to run a tourism industry than the people of the Catskills. Talk to anybody in the room from the general area they can list at least a dozen people who have owned or have worked at one of a one-time five hundred and thirty eight hotels, ranging from the Concord to Grassmeres. Even the CEO of Mohegan Sun was an employee of this family's resort at Grassmeres, and he was also actually a graduate of Liberty High School. However it's not just our skilled workforce and spirit that makes this one kind of an excellent destination, it's also the infrastructure we bring to the table. Many of the hotel sites are still available and wouldn't take a lot to revitalize many of these locations and unlike a lot of the other proposed regions we have the land to expand and accommodate additional development in the future. I feel the best way to ensure the success of gaming which would truly fulfill the intent of the legislation to revitalize upstate New York's economy is by working with the right proposal. One that looks beyond the development of one site and understands a multi-project approach is the best engine to spur economy development across all of the Catskills. Mohegan Sun at the Concord proposal actually has a proposal to revitalize the Grassmeres Hotel in Liberty, where I'm from, to a two hundred room hotel and destination, working with the PGA Golf Course and also spurring other activity down Main Street, Broadway, and Monticello and other things that you'll hear about later, our local ski hill. We also look to have a partner in this that has over two decades of casino operating experience and a proven track record of success. A company that looks beyond its business bottom line and the courage as part of their \_\_\_\_\_

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proposal against to spend money outside of their walls at local restaurants, hotels, and shops. Mohegan Sun is not only the best applicant because of what's included in their proposal, it's what their project represents for their entire region of the Catskills. Jobs, economic growth, and the type of long term investment this region needs to become once again a top tourist destination. There's only one proponent with these unique qualities in its proposal that will deliver this type of economic rebirth and that's the Mohegan Sun at the Concord. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Thank you Robert, next up is Sandra Shaddick.

Sandra Shaddick: Esteemed members of the New York State Gaming Facility Locations Board, my name is Sandra Shaddick. I am a lifelong resident of Sullivan County. I am a married working mom, a taxpayer and a voter. I thank you for the ability to speak here today in support of two casinos in Sullivan County. Mohegan Sun at the Concord and Adelaar. Being born and raised in Sullivan County I saw the tragic end of the hotel and tourism industry. As a teen growing up in the western end of the county I worked multiple jobs. Friday nights at a local restaurant, Saturday mornings I worked at a local egg farm. And I worked summers at the Valley View Hotel and the Villa Roma. My parents taught me the importance of working hard. As much as I did not like to work weekends and all summer, I did appreciate having my own money and being able to spend that money on what I thought was important. As a teenage girl in the 1980s, that was designer jeans, Nike sneakers, and of course hair spray. There was not really anywhere to shop other than our upstairs boutique at the Sullivan's Department Store. As our only mall, the Apollo Mall, catered to the crowds of tourist with labels that a teen never heard of. We had little choice but to go off to Orange County and spend our money. As we drove to the Orange Plaza to shop at Joyce Leslie and sip on Orange Julius. Then Sullivan's closed. The Valley View closed. The other resorts one by one followed suit. The Brown's, the Pine's, the Stevensville Grossinger's, the Concord and Kutchers. The Apollo Mall lost its client base and shut its doors. What I had learned and what I have taken from those years is a strong ethic. I have never been unemployed. I was not born of privilege and I was taught the value of a honest day's work for an honest day's pay. I am part and here as a representative solely of Sullivan County's middle class. I am now raising a teenage daughter. At fifteen she has been unable to find an afterschool job or a summer job. I am concerned for her future. I am concerned for the future of all residents of Sullivan County. We need jobs and we need your help. We need these casinos. As a child I remember seeing the signs and the bumper stickers that said casinos means jobs. I didn't understand it then but I understand it now. I sit on the workforce investment board, the Sullivan County Industrial Development Agency, and the Hudson Valley Central Labor Council. I work in Sullivan, Orange, and Ulster. All three counties that are here today lobbying for a casino in their area. In comparing the casino development plans you will be seeing beautiful buildings, architecture, landscaping, elaborate floor plans, and state of the art gaming facilities. But this isn't what you should be considering in your final decision. This isn't, woops. You are to look at the economic impact. After all, Governor Como stated that the upstate New York economic development act was designed to bring jobs to upstate New York where decades of decline have taken a toll on our communities. Orange County lost the Orange County Plaza to the Galleria Mall, then rebuilt a bigger and better Orange Plaza. They have Woodbury Commons who brings in a ton of revenue by bussing people from New York City to the outlet haven. There are

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multiple malls, restaurants, mom and pop shops. Small towns booming with wineries, quant shops, franchises, health care facilities, warehouses, jobs are abound. Middletown alone has more stores than all of Sullivan County combined. Ulster too has the same. Many malls. Many local businesses. Quant artsy stores. A little bit of everything. Large employers including SUNY New Paltz, United Healthcare, Mohawk Mountain House, Rocking Horse Ranch Resort and Oscar Lodge. No county has recognized the decline more than Sullivan. Here we are not so lucky. Ulster has more than double and Orange has more than four times the population of Sullivan. Yet in Sullivan we have the highest unemployment rate, the lowest percentage of home owners based on population, the lowest median household income, over ten thousand less than Ulster and over twenty thousand less than Orange. Sullivan and Ulster both experienced a decline in population from the 2010 and the 2012 census while Orange experienced a population growth. Our worst and most relevant statistic is that Sullivan County has the highest number of people living in poverty. In Orange County the percentage of people living in poverty is 11.7%, in Ulster 12.9%, and Sullivan is 17.2%. What exactly does this mean? Based on 17.2% it means that in Sullivan County one in every six residents is living in poverty. In Ulster it's one in every eight. In Orange it's one in every nine. Now if Sullivan's population was the same as Ulster and our poverty rate remained the same it would mean one out of three. If you increased our population and kept our poverty rate the same equalized in Orange it would mean everyone in two. You must consider the amount of Sullivan's population that is currently receiving social services. These numbers are staggering. Proving the biggest impact and social impact is realized in Sullivan County. Sullivan County residents, adults, taxpayers, homeowners and seniors recognize that we came out voicing loud and clear through our votes of support that we need this, we need this for our survival. Casinos mean jobs. Sullivan County needs jobs. We need your help, without it our youth, seniors, taxpayers, and homeowners will continue to suffer and drop deeper into poverty. Please do not hesitate and make the only choice that makes sense. Vote two casinos in Sullivan. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you very much. Thank you Sandra. Alright we now go to the top of the hour of the reserve list. Reserve speakers, first speaker here on this is Scott B. Samuelson of the Sullivan County Legislature. I'm gonna ask staff, can we close these doors? To cut down some of the noise from the hallway. Good morning.

Scott Samuelson: My name is Scott Samuelson; I am Chairman of the Sullivan County Legislature. Chairman Law I would like to thank you and the board for this opportunity to speak to you today. I am joined by a group of Sullivan County public officials, residents, business owners, business leaders, and representatives from the town of the host community Thompson, the Sullivan County Partnership for Economic Development, the Sullivan County Partnership Visitors Association, the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce, and the Sullivan County IDA. Like me they will share their views in full support of Sullivan County. Over the course of the day you will hear about the extraordinary past of a tourism industry that made Sullivan County in New York State and the northeast for generations. You will hear about the five hundred hotels that once thrived all together and introduced us to some of the greatest performers of all time. And about how during those times our Main Street businesses flourished. You will also hear of the tragic decline of that hotel industry. The mind numbing unemployment, health, and poverty

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statistics that are Sullivan County today. You will also hear of our fifty year journey and our quest for Class 3 Gaming approval, all for naught. Until now. We're here today so that you can hear again that Sullivan County is ready for two destination casino resorts. You will hear once again that all the necessary approvals are in place for both and that one has a current building permit and a foundation in the ground assuring speed to market far ahead of all the others. How it will guarantee success for Sullivan County, the region, and the entire state. You will hear about our long standing relationships with both developers. With whom we have agreements to cross-market and to conduct workforce training together with our SUNY Sullivan. You'll hear that both projects together will create the transformational year round destination resorts that the governor and the legislature intended when they passed this legislation. That they will create the revenue for tax relief with education, will be the magnet that draws downstate tourists upstate, and will be the catalyst for additional business development throughout the community in the region for years to come. You will hear why we believe you can only award these licenses in Sullivan County. Orange County already enjoys extraordinary development opportunities and a vibrant economy. That a license in Orange will effectively eradicate all the opportunity in Sullivan and the upstate region entirely. Not to mention that it would fail to align the spirit intent of the legislation. And on a personal note, time permitted I would elaborate how my partner and I opened a small B&B with an upscale cabaret room and white lake in 1991. How we thought that the timing was perfect. That Sullivan County had hit rock bottom and had nowhere to go but up. Sadly we were mistaken. Unfortunately business has gone from bad to worse over the past twenty four seasons. When the referendum was announced I was energized with learning of the enabling legislation and its intent to revitalize distressed and disadvantage areas in upstate New York. It's why I and all of us in Sullivan County worked so tirelessly to ensure its passage with over a 74% plurality, the largest in this state. Gentleman I would like to go back to last November 6<sup>th</sup> when governor Cuomo came to Sullivan County, stood at a podium at the Bethel Wood Center for the Arts, just two and a half miles from my home and business, and he said "I believe this will fundamentally change the trajectory of the Catskills." And we want to have an attraction that starts the pattern of going north. And we think these resort destinations can be a part of that pattern. Gentlemen this is not a game to us, this is real. These are our lives. I thank you for this opportunity and ask that you heed the words of Governor Cuomo and that you recognize the fine work of Senator John Bonacic and assemblyman Gary Pretlow and our assembly room in Aileen Gunther, and honor the intent of the legislation. Award to licenses in Sullivan. We are right for the legislation. We are ready to build. We are world renowned and from the very beginning this has always been about Sullivan County and the Catskills. I thank you for your time.

Kevin Law: Thank you Scott. Next up is Mike Pine, also county executive.

Mike Pine: I apologize. I hope that smooching does not come out of my time.

Kevin Law: Now you're down to four minutes and fifty five seconds.

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Mike Pine: It was worth it. Gentlemen, A; I appreciate the time that you're taking out; I also know that you're probably a little weary. What was it a hundred and forth five speakers yesterday?

Kevin Law: Yes.

Mike Pine: So I want to make this very clear. We think there's some important and compelling information about why the Nevele Project should happen. First and foremost is the intent of the legislation. We recognize the intent of this legislation was to design solutions for communities that were maybe previously resort communities but now without a gaming license that becomes not economically viable. Now as the county executive of Ulster County, maybe you would think I'm a little biased in this situation and I am. But I am also the former president of the county executives association for entire state of New York. And in that process I traveled this entire amazing state. And I would ask a question as I traveled the state. Where is upstate? And where is downstate? Now I got very different answers depending on where I was. And be to quite frank with you I think the ambiguity there is a good thing for our state. I don't think the idea of having a clear border between upstate and downstate is good public policy. I think it separates us, it makes us not one New York and it's a detriment. I also think that there is an opportunity for you to do something extraordinary here. Truly bring economic development to upstate New York. But there's also an incredible danger and I'll tell you what the danger is. If we place casinos near massive tourist attractions like Woodbury Commons you run the very real risk of putting a lid on downstate disposable income tourism dollar, negatively effecting huge swaths of upstate New York and without question creating a border. There will be no question anywhere in New York State where upstate is and where downstate is. Now I know the intent of this legislation, because we were very active during the entire process. We fought tooth and nail to make sure there were more than one per region, because we knew that was pivotal in making sure that the Catskills can come back. And for the Catskills to come back, need projects that are truly shovel ready, well-funded, environmental all done, prepared to go to construction and start making a difference. And when we're talking about making a difference we're talking about people. We're talking about men, women, children, having the opportunity to not just be born and raised some place, but to be able to stay. Now when this legislation was drawn up there were specific places like the Nevele in mind. Ladies and gentlemen in this community understand one thing; you have the profound ability to make a difference. To functionally end unemployment in a place where there is now 14% unemployment. End it. End unemployment in the Ellenville and Warwarsing area. But more than that instead of creating a border, you have the opportunity to create a gateway into all of upstate New York and that is something that is very exciting to me. Twenty two million people in the metro New York area I believe have to have the opportunity to experience all that I know is so beautiful. I was born and raised in Ulster County and I consider that a privilege. This project is spectacular. The communities are spectacular. And you have an opportunity to make them economically viable once again. I know that's an enormous responsibility and you're gonna get lobbied from every side, and the truth is many folks believe in the state of New York that this is about money and about politics. I don't believe that. I believe that the folks on this commission have an opportunity to do something extraordinary, and that's what I'm asking you

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to do. Site a casino gaming license at the Nevele and make a difference for the men, women, and children of our community. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you Mike. Thank you county executive Pine. Guys we are four for four with elected officials under five minutes, that means everybody could do it. So I thank you very much. Susan Copenhaver.

Susan Copenhaver: Good morning. I echo Mike's sympathies for you to have to sit and listen for many many hours but I thank you for the opportunity to address you today. My name is Sue Copenhaver I'm the CEO of Always There Homecare. We are a certified and licensed agency in Ulster County. We used to serve Ellenville until it got to the point where the folks there could not afford to send their loved ones to our adult daycare center. Perhaps putting them in nursing homes after that, I'm not sure what happened. But anyway. Having the Nevele approved will positively impact the entire community of Ellenville and will go a long way toward ending unemployment in the surrounding region. We have invested interest in that region becoming stronger and more stable. We have many staff and clients who work and live there and the better their financial situation is the better their health will probably be and the easier it will be for us to take care of folks who might now be able to afford health insurance. Thereby ensuring a healthier region overall. Putting a casino south of where we are, where there is a much greater population density and better proximity to New York City does not afford the northern part of the mid-Hudson region a chance to grow. It would serve as a dam cutting off tourism industry to a region that so desperately needs a financial, visual, and tourism boost. Both Ulster and Sullivan counties need a chance to have an industry that would help those counties for people to earn a decent living wage, get health benefits, and open our regions for increased tourism, also helping the local economy. So many wonderful things are already happening in Ulster County that would attract tourism and industry. Some projects worth mentioning are the pending completion of a longer rail trail, something that has been a boom to Dutchess County already where I live and I've seen it happen. Ulster is embarking on a huge farm project and many hops farms are already booming there. What could be better than growing the raw ingredients for beer. Projects like these would be an added attraction for those coming to a resort or a casino and looking for local attractions, flavors, and activities. I also believe that when a couple of resorts and casinos reach prominence and prosperity in Ulster and Sullivan counties it will pave the way for future development and a long distressed but still picturesque region that has so much to offer to so many. Perhaps the region might even see again the wonderful resort life it enjoyed decades ago. We can only hope. But having a beautiful plan in place become a reality, like the Nevele could be, would help those dreams come realities once more. Thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of the Nevele today.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Henry Rosengarden

Henry Rosengarden: Good morning. I do not represent any group, business, or organization related to the casino applicants. Whether I'm speaking from my own experience as a retired teacher, volunteer in six Hudson Valley organizations, and senior citizen. I'm retired from the school district in Marlboro and I live in Wakil school district, both of which are in southern

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Ulster County. I would to specifically discuss how the casino proposals address community needs including those of the people in the surrounding areas and their efforts to improve the social-economic status of these people. Many places in the Hudson Valley Catskill region have a lack of planned activities for adults and seniors as well as venues to hold such activities. If you talk to the people in the mid-Sullivan County and the Newburgh area, the two most economically depressed locations vying for casino placement; you will find they face the same issues. Few available interesting attractive activities and almost no public place to hold such events. It is obvious by looking online at Meetup.com where people with similar interests can gather, discuss, and plan an events that there are many people of all age groups who have ideas but lack meeting places to hold gatherings. Within twenty five miles of Newburgh for example, there are over three hundred and fifty registered meet up groups, some with over a thousand members. They may occasionally meet at people's houses but certainly not even five percent of their membership will fit. And there are many more social, business, and cultural groups not listed on Meetup.com that face the same situation. Within twenty five miles of Monticello there are twenty seven meet up groups. Mitchell Lake has twenty eight. On September tenth I took a drive to the Saratoga casino to see what they offered to such groups and to find out what they have planned to offer Newburgh based Hudson Valley Casino and Resort. In preparation I read the formal casino applications to this committee. This group caught my attention by having in their proposal a scholarship offer to their employees. According to the 2013 stately porcard; sixty five percent of the students of Newburgh Free Academy are economically disadvantaged. They face poor job prospects after high school, if they get that far. According to exhibit XB-1 of Rush Street's application; they will provide up to five thousand a year in scholarships to employees. They also provide assistance with health care, child care, and substance abuse programs. At Saratoga I was greeted in the tour and had my questions addressed by senior vice president of marketing Rita Cox. She assured me that both the scholarship and additional outreach programs would be enforced. The main reason for my tour though was to find out if the Hudson Valley Casino would be open to local community and community groups. Mrs. Cox Stated that in addition to the club and meeting rooms that are dedicated to such groups, the convention center and ball room would be available. No fee would be charged for such group meetings. A team of employees would be dedicated to community activities. Additionally the convention center in Baldwin would be available for trade shows, craft fairs, and events generated by community groups. Local artists, crafts people, and performers would have a venue to display their talents. The Hudson Valley Casino and Resort located at the junction of the two largest highways in this region. Located where there is a financial, cultural, and social economic need. Located where people from the local region, including the depressed cities of Pokipsy and Kingston as well as New York City, Westchester, and Putnam counties can easily access the facilities simply makes sense. It will provide a huge economic and cultural difference to those that live in the region as a whole, not just in Newburgh. It can be built with a minimum disruption to local transportation systems and will enhance local businesses providing even more jobs to an area desperate for them. It can exist without negatively impacting a second regional casino, should this committee so decide, whether it is in Sullivan, Ulster, or Orange County. No matter what standard you use the Hudson Valley Casino and Resort simply makes sense. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Donald Katt.

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Donald Katt: Good morning. Thank you for allowing me to speak. I'm Donald Katt president of Ulster County Community College. We have been working with the owners of the Nevele for the last two years to make sure that we are ready and selected to train upwards of twelve hundred employees to work at the Nevele. We've had four meetings with our local employment and training office, BOCES, and surrounding Community Colleges and if selected we are prepared to mount a non-credited training program and we hope with the involvement of Sullivan Community College as well. I was in Albany when the Nevele presented their proposal to this board and the video certainly strikes home how important this is to Ulster County and to the town of Warwarsing and the Village of Ellenville. We understand as the governor really pushed this legislation to create these casinos to help an economic development in upstate New York. I don't think there is a community as in more of need than Ellenville and I certainly support this effort. There is a local article in the Kingston Freeman where Angel was speaking about this is the first economic development project that she has been involved in where everyone is in favor of this development. And I want to say, representing Ulster County, that we are hoping that the Nevele rises to the top of your selection process. We are really privileged to have the Nevele group interested in developing part of Ulster County and we hope that is part of your decision. Thank you very much.

Bill Thompson: President Katt can I just ask you one question? What is the range of jobs that you would be training at the community college.

Donald Katt: Primarily the dealers and pit bosses, but we are working with the area BOCES, the four BOCES in this area in terms of culinary skills, hospitality and we're in conversations with Sullivan Community College. They have a casino management program where we'll establish a one plus one program where students would be able to take the non-casino management program courses with us and then transfer to Sullivan to finish their Associates Degree. Thank you again.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Now back to the other list. Christopher Eachus from the Orange County Legislature.

Christopher Eachus: Good morning. My name is Christopher Eachus, I'm an Orange County Legislature although I do not speak for the entire legislature, I do speak for my district. It's the fifteenth district which encompasses most of New Windsor, the Town of New Windsor. I'd like to thank you for this opportunity to speak to you and I'd like to start out by saying to you that I am not a gambler. I've visited many casinos, perhaps hundreds of them in Las Vegas, Atlantic City, across this nation. As well as in other countries and I have never, I can tell you, have never bet a nickel. So I'm not exactly the type of person that a casino wants to see. However, I also, like you, take the siting of a casino very seriously. How seriously? Well as an elected official I felt it was my obligation to go and check out the proposed casino Greenetrack in the Town of New Windsor in my district. So my wife and I took a trip down to Eutaw, Alabama. And that's spelled e-u-t-a-w, sounds like it's spelled the right way anyway. And we visited with the people and the businesses and the schools and everybody that we possibly could on our own dime on, our own time. And we wanted to find out what's the difference between the hype, because

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you've certainly heard the hype, and what is the truth. I can tell you that we were very impressed when we first got down there and we started to talk to people on the street. We immediately heard a story about how Greenetrack had helped people with their fuel bills. That many people down there were hit hard this last winter and they couldn't pay their fuel bills. And through a grant program Greenetrack allowed that. We even spoke to another individual who was going to foreclosure and Greenetrack helped him til he was financially stable to hold onto his house and get back on his feet. I spoke with small businessmen, all kinds of small businessmen and women. And to every one of them they were very pleased with the living wages supplied by Greenetrack to those people down there and the fact that that money got turned over within the local economy time and time again and how it's spurred that economy. I spoke with realtors. They mentioned about the fact that the Greenetrack employees with their wages, living wages, and benefits are able to afford houses. And they never went through a crunch like we did up here. I spoke with farmers. Man were they happy to have a local market in which to sell their food and didn't have to pay to have it shipped off quite a distance. So these are all the types of things that we hear promises about but I can tell you that it's not something new with Greenetrack. It happens. It's happening now. I was able to see, I happen to be a teacher by profession, I was able to see a brand new high school built with millions and millions of dollars from Greenetrack that opened just this August for the entire county. Talked with the head of EMS, my goodness they purchased ten new fire engines. Just with money from Greenetrack. And they actually have an EMS system now because of Greenetrack. I was also able to go to Grand Rapids, Michigan. Which is where full house resorts formally, and I want to stress that, formally ran a casino. Because I wanted to go in and speak to the people in the casino, called FireKeepers Casino, and find out, do they also get living wages? Do they get benefits? And I can tell you unequivocally they do. Okay I had a young lady who came up to me, her name was Sherry, and she told me "once I was hired on by Fullhouse Resorts I could quit my other two full-time jobs, I made more money, and got better benefits that way." So we've heard the hype. I went personally to check it out. And I think that's the obligation of every elected official. And I can't wait to hear what the other elected officials have to say about their visits to the hometowns of the casinos and finding out about the hype. I believe that Greenetrack is absolutely what we need here in Orange County, the Town of New Windsor, in New York State. Because it's not just the money. It's not gonna be just the economy. It's going to be which casino is going to assist the community the greatest. Which casino is gonna be around the longest. And I believe that when you take a good look at this you will see that although Greenetrack is admittedly not the largest, it is the strongest and the best. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Next, also from the Orange County Legislature, Kevin Hynes.

Kevin Hynes: Thank you. It's sort of nice to follow Mr. Eachus because I won't have to repeat some of what he said and I'll stay under my five minutes.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

Kevin Hynes: I do represent the Orange County Legislature, Cornwall, Blooming Grove, and New Windsor. I also sit on the Orange County Gaming Committee and I can tell you that we

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vetted every casino that has proposed in Orange County. And the Orange County Legislature, I'll speak as a member of the Gaming Committee, supports a casino in Orange County. And now I'll speak for myself because I in the vetting process have chosen one that I think is best and I also have chosen a region that I think is best because I think it works best for sustainability of having two in the region. So let me just move on to my presentation now. I think Orange County offers a great opportunity not only for the Hudson Valley but for the entire state of New York. I watched some presentations in Albany and heard some rhetoric from Sullivan County that they couldn't get financing if Orange County was selected. Notice I say that's rhetoric. The reason I say that is because I would do the same thing if I were from Sullivan. And I would say "give me the monopoly, let me have both casinos," or only one for that matter. But I submit to you that a casino in eastern Orange County. Meaning Newburgh, New Windsor, in that region would be sustainable. So citizens would have a choice if their traveling north on the New York State throughway they will have an option. Do I wanna get on Route 17? Head maybe twenty five minutes west on Route 17? Or do I wanna stay on the throughway and go twenty minutes on the New York State throughway and pull into the eastern Orange County region? So I think it's sustainable to have two. And it's also gonna come down to the offerings that are made in the marketing plans of the individual casinos. I envision eastern Orange County casinos having adult entertainment, things of that nature. I envision Sullivan County casinos as having golf courses, water parks, family destinations. Two different opportunities. What do I want? Do I wanna bring my family to a location, or do I just wanna go see a show, have a nice meal, do some gambling? Unlike Mr. Eachus I do like to gamble and I have visited many casinos. Now with respect to the vetting process. We vetted all of the casinos with respect to issues of transportation, opportunities. All the casinos were good with respect to that. They all had good ideas with respect to what are they gonna do with their communities. What are they gonna do with their locations. However, I also sit as chairman to the Public Safety Committee and Emergency Services Committee in Orange County. And I tasked, we tasked, the emergency service division with some questions. And what they did was they called casinos the municipalities, not the casinos in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and they said what effect did the casinos have on emergency services? And the answer was overwhelmingly, traffic. Traffic was the number one issues that all the outside casinos faced. There was a little bit of a uptake in emergency services with respect to EMS. But there really didn't, and they had their own staff within the facility to handle that. So that brings me to the Greenetrack casino which is located at Stewart Airport. In state of New York with the governor, all our state elected officials, several years ago decided that the interchange of the New York State throughway with Route 84, should be enhanced with the sole purpose of development at Stewart International Airport. So the state spent fifty five million dollars on a new exit at the Newburgh interchange. The Greenetrack location at Stewart Airport can be be easily accessed through Route 84, the New York State throughway, Route 747, without any effect on local traffic. Route 747 is an underutilized road that was developed for the sole purpose of economic development at Stewart International Airport. This is gonna bring the best bang to the community. I read today's paper and Senator Bonacic apparently sent a letter to you fine gentlemen indicating that the casinos in Sullivan County could be built rapidly because they already have all their plans in place and Orange would be so far behind. It's not true with respect to the Greenetrack proposal because they already have the seeker complete. They already have planning complete. You'll hear from town

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supervisor George Green today from New Windsor and probably some others if you haven't already, that that facility is ready to go. I would submit to you that the Stewart Airport property would be developed prior to anything in Sullivan County because they're that fast and that ready to enhance this region. Now I move the history of Greenetrack and Mr. Eachus.

Kevin Law: You have twenty seconds.

Kevin Hynes: Yeah Mr. Eachus eluted to some of it. Mr. Wynn is a minority owned business. Greenetrack, a minority owned business which is significant to our area in the state of New York. You heard about a lot of the programs. Mr. Malik is one of the owners, proposed owners. He did phenomenal work in the city of Detroit. I'll close with this because my time is running out. Please help Mr. Wynn and the Grand Hudson Resort and Casino in New Windsor at Stewart Airport to revitalize our entire region. Thank you for your time and attention. You'll find that Orange is where you'll find the most green. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Kevin, Kevin, could you stay? The Gaming Committee of the County Legislature that you referred to. Did you have any, did you retain any consultants and did the committees work culminate in any type of report or assessment?

Kevin Hynes: I believe you're gonna hear from our chairman Mr. Amo later today. The position of the gaming committee was that we didn't want to pick one as a committee in case you gentlemen picked another. We didn't want to insult your process so we decided that individual legislatures could support who they wanted to. But the position of the Gaming Committee is that we want one in Orange County.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

Kevin Hynes: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Next up is assembly woman Eileen Gunther.

Eileen Gunther: Well good morning and thank you for this opportunity. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on the casino siting process here in the Hudson Valley. It's a topic in which I have many thoughts but I'll do my best today to distill it down to the salient points. We talk a lot about unemployment numbers. And admittedly the numbers in Sullivan County are persistent and staggering. But the New York State Department of Labor produces all, and even more a telling report. Business expansion and contraction. For sixteen of the last eighteen months Sullivan County's economic development has been summed up in three little words. Nothing to report. While neighboring Orange County has announcement after announcement. Amy's Kitchen, Prat and Whitney, Toral College, all wonderful projects. Sullivan County months after month, nothing to report. But nothing to report is nothing new in Sullivan County. Since the decline of the resort industry began in the 1960s there have been only a few bright spots in our county. Bethel Woods Center for the Arts and the recent of growth of the beer, wine, and spirit industry. For far too long we have been talking about needing an

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economic engine in the Catskill. Those are not my words; they're Governor Cuomo's. They're the words that he spoke on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013. When he came to Bethel Woods to celebrate the passage of the constitutional amendment. Far too long indeed. We've been talking about this long enough for, and I have a little prop here, this is my husband and daughter Mary-Alice, that is now thirty six. Now she's all grown up, she's married, and I have two grandchildren. So that's how long we've been talking about it. And I can remember John Esper Catholic High School in 1972, during my graduation, hearing about casino gaming at Kutchers Hotel. I'm the second Gunther to have advocated for the passage of the constitutional amendment and the assembly. And I can tell you my colleagues to the south were not interested in casino gaming. They were not interested and some were actively against it. But I stood up in our conference and I told them why it was important to Sullivan County and the Catskills and we got it passed. Colleagues of mine who were four square against casinos, changed their votes. While they didn't want a casino in their neighborhood, they recognized that I need them in mine. Fast forward less than a year and here we are fighting tooth and nail, pleading with you to honor the intent and the spirit of the enabling legislation. To create an economic engine, the Governor's words not mine, for upstate New York. It is the goal of the enabling legislation was to generate as much revenue, if the goal of the legislation, was to generate as much revenue as quickly as possible for the state. We would not have four licenses to issue in New York, we would have one. And there would be no question about where you'd put it. It would be located in Time Square. This legislation was drafted with the Catskills in mind. The overall impact of putting a casino in Orange County, with its three hundred thousand residents and its seven hundred million dollar budget is like throwing a pebble into a pond. For Sullivan County, with seventy eight thousand people and a two hundred million dollar budget, the overall economic impact is like throwing a boulder into a bathtub. We have suffered a succession of heartbreaks, near misses, and false promises. We have endured talk of land swaps, and the Native American gaming first passage when the second was not to come. In Sullivan County we have held our hope beyond reason. And we continue to have great hope. Hope that you will fulfill your obligation and honor the intent and the spirit of this legislation. The intent of all the people in Sullivan County, the Catskills, and all of upstate New York who voted in favor of this constitutional amendment. Today and in the weeks to months to come, we place our faith and hope in you for Sullivan County that's crumbling. Our families that are truly struggling, and our children who are leaving. We place our faith and hope in you that you will choose the long term benefit of creating the economic engine Sullivan County and the Catskills so desperately need. And not the flash in the pan benefit of siting one for the south. Thank you very much.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Less Krist.

Less Krist: Hello everyone. My name is Less Krist and I'm an adamant proponent of two casinos for Sullivan County. I thank you the New York State Gaming Commission for the opportunity to talk about the reasons that Sullivan County New York should be getting two casinos and that Mohegan Sun makes a lot of sense to get the license for one of them. I am almost sixty eight years old and I have lived my entire life in Monticello, New York. In 1969 I graduated from Cornell University and joined my dad at our family business now known as Krist Kelly Ortho Systems Corp.. We've had as many as fifty service craved persons working there. As a child I

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remember clearly all the traffic and hoopla in Sullivan County as the summer resort season came upon us, came upon us. In college I had the pleasure of working at the Pines Hotel and at Kutchers Country Club. To her last day, Helen Kutcher always had a big hug and a kind word for me whenever she saw me. I remember going to the great shows of many hotels, including the Concord. Okay, I had to sneak over the fence every so often to get in, but that was part of the fun. I mentioned my fond memories of the Sullivan County Catskills because I know there are literally tens of thousands more people who have those same types of memories. They're just waiting to figuratively get that last hug from Helen Kutcher, Jenny Grossinger, or the owner of the small bungalow colony that they stayed in for the season. There is a huge huge built in audience for a grand a new casino in Sullivan County. There is so many folks who are chomping at the bit to come back and stay in a nice new modern hotel in Sullivan County, and to drive around the same old roads again to see what all, they're old stomping grounds look like now so many years later. It will bring back memories of mom, dad, Zeetie, bubbie, and summer upon summer of happiness and joyful events. All the better that this new modern hotel is a world class casino brought to them by Mohegan Sun. They will be able to take advantage of the built in entertainment of gaming, along with night club shows and many many other on-site attractions. The old model of a quote unquote world class casino might be changing. The old model, like in Atlantic City, is a huge glitzy building and casino hall that is designed basically for nothing but gambling. With no hope of traveling to or partaking in any other type of personal or family entertainment. Mohegan Sun will be the new and much improved casino model. Mohegan Sun will be partnering with all of Sullivan County. The entire county of Sullivan will be the destination resort. Sullivan County is beautiful. Rivers, streams, lakes, green pastures, rolling hills, beautiful hills, county roads, snow coat covered mountains in winter, hunting, and a lot more of Sullivan County. Sullivan County is the antithesis of the city. Mohegan Sun has already officially partnered with Holiday Mountain Ski Hill and Fun Park. Also, when Mohegan Sun packages a day trip to landers river trips on the Delaware Narrowsburg or Dave Trap fishing in Rosco, when they package a night for a concert at Bethel Woods or play at Forestburgh Playhouse. When they package a day trip with John Conway on a bus tour of Sullivan County or when they package a day of water skiing at Kauneonga Lake. Families will be able to take in the beauty of Sullivan County as they go to their destination. Be able to play the world class casino at night or the next day. Sullivan Renaissance has for twelve years has been helping every town and village and many firehouses, churches, synagogues, camps, and private businesses spruce up their looks. Sullivan Renaissance has given grants, classes, prizes, and awards in numerous categories around the county. Sullivan County has responded with resounding enthusiasm as everyone everywhere has participated. We, Sullivan County, have focused toward the future with the look of gardens, flowers, country pass, and a beautiful new presence. Over fifteen years ago, the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce took under chore of getting northern Sullivan County just a little more polite, that program is called Sullivan Hospitality, you guessed it, modeled after southern hospitality. We have made great strides at getting those in Sullivan County ready to be a hospitality center with a positive user friendly attitude once the casinos get here. The original reasons that the resorts did so well in Sullivan County and were nonexistent in Orange County are still there. All those of us who have come here today from Sullivan County are basically saying the same thing. Please give us a chance. We will respond with hard work.

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Kevin Law: Time's up. Almost, you got close?

Less Krist: Just about. A revitalized look, a healthy attitude, and a world class destination resort casino. Preferably two that will encompass all of nine hundred and ninety seven square miles of Sullivan County will make the state of New York, you the commission, and all of Sullivan County very proud of your choice. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Folks I said it earlier, I mean don't, I mean no disrespect when I try to cut you off but if we let every speaker go over one minute, that's gonna prevent some of you who have signed up to speak from speaking. Because at 8pm we stop then we have to drive to Ithaca for tomorrow. So that's why I'm gonna try to keep everybody up. It's no disrespect. So with that, next speaker Mark McCluin.

Mark McCluin: Morning, Mark very tall McCluin.

Kevin Law: Hi Mark.

Mark McCluin: Hi, good morning, Mark McCluin. Can I pick this up?

Kevin Law: Yep. If you put it back.

Mark McCluin: I'll put it back. No taking. I'm Mark McCluin. I'm a businessman in Sullivan County since the early 80s. Quite frankly I'm gonna side with Eileen. I'm confused. I don't understand why casinos are even being considered in Orange County. Opposition to casinos there only grows while in Sullivan County people not only support the casinos but are looking forward to receiving them. Again in the 2013 referendum, some five percent of the voters voted in favor of them in Sullivan County. After three decades of multa, running multiple businesses in Sullivan, I feel confident to voice my opinion. I'm a landlord, both residential and commercial. I'm a developer, a builder, and I own Pennywise Properties which is a real estate brokerage in Monticello. Sullivan County, it's a county of distress and was precisely to help counties in distress that this legislation was passed. Orange County on the other hand has experienced the second fastest growth in New York, in New York, for twenty years. That doesn't sound like distress. At least to my confusion. Sullivan needs a boost. Last month all realtors in Sullivan County sold forty one houses. Forty one houses in the month of August. The average number of days in the market, two hundred and fifty seven. By the way the forty one houses sold that's down from fifty one a year ago. So a year ago August we sold fifty one houses collectively. Median sale price one hundred and forty thousand dollars. This is an economy that is looking for a two casino boost. Orange County by the way sold five hundred and fifty houses during the month of August this year. With a median price of two hundred and forty three thousand. So you got forty one houses compared to five hundred and fifty in terms of sales and a median price of a hundred and forty thousand compared to two hundred and forty three thousand in sales. Sullivan has been preparing itself to receive casinos for the last six years. Mohegan Sun is shovel ready. We've heard all this. I'm gonna skip this part of it cause you guys already know we're shovel ready. We got the building permits. We're all set to go when everything goes off. Mohegan Sun

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is also taking an interesting approach to its development. Of course it's gonna build a casino but then it's going to also help to develop to redevelop it's its Grossinger's Hotel and monster golf course in Liberty. That's the next town to the west. To the east they're gonna invest a million dollars and expand operations at the Holiday Mountain Ski Park. And then within Monticello there's three acres of offices, restaurants, and shops to be developed. That's a seventeen mile stretch so that one project alone is gonna effect a seventeen mile stretch in our county of Sullivan. They also have created this member marketing partnership which I think is an important piece. This is going to help gamers to expand activity. To basically expand themselves to get out into the community. There are points that are generated, now you guys probably know about this right the the the partnership? Yeah so I like that because it's gonna get people out of the casinos into the community, and that's really what you need because these people that's gonna stay in the casinos, it's gonna be good but it's not gonna be great. We wanna get the county moving. Visitors will experience, I live in Sullivan cause its beauty. I moved up here in 1993 permanently because it was so beautiful. And to get those gamers out and to see the beauty, they're gonna wanna buy houses. And when those people buy houses, all of a sudden we're seeing this economic expansion compounding itself because the housing markets effect the trickle down of spending is fast. One casino in Sullivan County and one casino in Orange, it's gonna fail. Sullivan does not stand a chance against Orange's proximity to New York City. Two casinos in Sullivan will bring people to both counties as most travelers will have to go through Orange County to get to Sullivan. All that said casinos alone are not enough. You need to position these casinos to generate income for New York State from other sources besides the tables. We're seeing proof of that right now down in Atlantic City. Las Vegas has been successful at this. They have shows, they have food, they have amusement parks. Sullivan already has a lot of these attractions. Adelaar will have an indoor water park and a spa. We already have multiple golf courses, the Delaware River, hiking, Bethel Woods Performance Center of the Arts. The list goes on. With your vote of confidence in us, more needed hotels will sprout up for all of our new tourists. Sullivan County's tourists will come for the gambling tables and they'll stay for the county. And they'll be spending money the entire time. So two casinos for Sullivan, thank you for your time.

Kevin Law: Thank you Mark. Okay we are taking a five minute break and in five minutes first up will be Steven Shaffer so be ready. Thank you. For those who weren't here at eight a.m. when we started. We're going off two lists. One for people who pre-registered and the other list is for people who signed up today. Five minutes max. We have a timer and next up from the reserve list is Steven Shaffer.

Steven Shaffer: Good morning gentlemen of the board. Good morning ladies and gentlemen of the audience. My name is Steven Shaffer. A retired physician who now lives in Saugerties. I'm chairperson of the coalition against gambling in New York. I was born and brought up in Dutchess County where my daughter and her family now reside. Hudson Valley Casino and Resort has presented an analysis of health impacts as incomplete as an analysis of vehicle traffic limited to trucks. The report finds regional healthcare facilities ready for a slight increase in physical malities of visitors and perhaps a slightly larger population. The impact in predatory gambling on society however goes far beyond in-casino heart attacks. The report ignores

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socioeconomic impacts of pathological and problem gambling, such as lower productivity at work, administration of the justice system, abused dollars and social services. Beyond those codifiable costs are other costs too abstract to have a dollar value. Most are also related to problem and pathological gamblers who yield about half the revenue of the average casino. These costs include family breakups, psychological hurt, and suicide. Casino promoters are not obliged to tell you about what they call emotional costs when they talk money. But they should tell you that predatory gambling tolls society in estimable dollars much more than the trifle Hudson Valley Casino concedes. The application is mute on how many new problems gamblers and addicted gamblers a casino in Newburgh might generate. It gives not even an order of magnitude figure for the annual costs to society associated with each new problem or pathological gambler. The only costs acknowledged due to gambling are for treatment and prevention. It is assumed that all foreseeable increases in these costs, due to the casino, would be covered by present office of alcohol and substance services programs. Plus an annual one point five million dollars collected by the state for treatment and prevention from three thousand gambling positions at five hundred dollars per year each. The report writer must think that this money would go back to Orange County, dollar for dollar. Not so. It would be divvied up across state. The applicant is wrong to pretend that one point five million dollars would begin to cover the socioeconomic costs intended on a new casino in Newburgh. Here's one estimate of a codifiable socioeconomic costs, neither best case, nor worst case. Within a fifteen mile radius of the proposed site live at least two and a half million adults. At least 1.14% of them or twenty eight thousand five hundred are pathological gamblers now. If the allure of a Newburgh casino would notch up that 1.14% by just 15%, that's four thousand two hundred seventy five new pathological gamblers. If the codifiable socioeconomic costs per year of one pathological gambler is twelve thousand seven hundred ninety dollars, the total cost of new pathological gamblers only, not counting less severely affected problem gamblers, would be fifty four point seven million dollars per year. My attack on this proposal does not mean I think there's a proposal in region one or anywhere else in the state that has such a better analysis of socio-societal health costs and benefits that it merits a license instead of Hudson Valley Casino. A cost benefit analysis that gave due regard to societal health reified that none of the sixteen proposals passes the test. The upstate gaming act authorized up to four casinos in upstate, it did not mandate them. No proposed casino deserves a license. Thank you for your attention.

Kevin Law: Thank you for your comments. Next is Christie Apostaletus. I get that right?

Christie Apostaletus: Yep very good.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

Christie Apostaletus: I would just like to thank the board for listening to us in the yellow shirts today. I'm Christie Apostaletus speaking on behalf of the Northern Tuxedo Residents Association. I represent the population most directly impacted by the Sterling Forest Resort. However our objections extend far beyond our back yards. In our area back yards are state park lands, held in public trust, and completely the wrong place for a casino. Our reservoir provides a healthy overflow into the Ramapo River. Providing drinking water to millions downstream and is

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not able to support a resort with nearly seven million people. Our objections to the Sterling Forest Resort are not only ours but that of many others. The following evidence refutes the notion that there is broad public support in the town of Tuxedo. Exclusive to one member of the town board, used at best, misguided methods to gather public input and seemingly disregarded popular public opinion. Let's start in late April and May. There were two separate town board meetings before the resolution of support for the casino was passed where public comment was allowed. At the first meeting 86% of speakers voiced opposition to the proposal. Of the few that spoke in favor, only one was a Tuxedo resident. After this first public introduction of the casino a community meeting was held and attended by over ninety people and many people had to be turned away because the building was at capacity. Attendees that spoke overwhelmingly in opposition to the casino. A petition was circulated. A number of Facebook pages and a website created to organizing an opposition. An online petition that gathered over six hundred signatures was created. And all this happened in two weeks. On May, another town meeting was held which restricted comments to only those that had not spoken previously. At this time 60% of the speakers made statements against the casino and yet the town board passed the resolution to support Western Forest Resort. The vote was 3-2 in favor. A close margin, but you probably never saw that resolution because it was never submitted to the Gaming Commission. During seven days in May Supervisor Ross requested that residents commit, submit comments to the town via email. On May 27 the results of these emails were announced. Of the two hundred and sixty two emails received, a hundred and seventy four stated a clear opposition to the casino. This means that sixty six of the responses were against the casino. Note that this is about the same ratio as seen at the town board meetings. On June 9<sup>th</sup> when the town board was asked how they came to the conclusion that the residents of Tuxedo were in support of the project, two of the town board members stated that they had one on one discussions with people around town. Supervisor Ross was specifically asked if this opinion, if his opinion was that the town was in favor of the casino was based on his one on one discussions. He said yes. On June 23<sup>rd</sup> a public hearing took place in regards to the, to a proposed zoning change a gaming overlay. At this meeting 79% of speakers stated opposition to the zoning change. The town board passed the law with a 4-1 vote in favor anyway. Speakers mentioned the zoning change was unnecessary according to both the gaming commissions, RFA, and zoning changes in Tuxedo's 2011 comprehensive plan. The entire thing appeared to be simply a ploy to fake public support. On June 25<sup>th</sup> with no allowed public comment and without releasing the document to the public, the host agreement was adopted and a resolution was re-adopted in support of the casino. This time it passed with a 4-1 vote in favor. In addition to seeking approval from the town board, other entities were encouraged by Genting to state public support for the Sterling Forest Resort. As I imagine time is running short I'll just list the following questionable displays of public support. Tuxedo's neighbor to the west is the Village of Greenwood Lake. This village's mayor is owner of a PR firm called Red Pillar. Genting hired Red Pillar for an undisclosed amount. Greenwood Lake's Village Board passed a resolution in favor of the casino. On May 28<sup>th</sup> the Tuxedo board of education announced the acceptance of a gift of three hundred and forty thousand dollars to the Tuxedo School District, from Genting. The Tuxedo Board of Ed. President stayed in support for the casino. On June 26<sup>th</sup> the Village of Tuxedo Park voted 3-2 to accept the agreement with Genting, which included a clause stating that the village board of trustees does not take any action that inconsistent with its support of the project in exchange for ten million in funding for

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capital projects. Genting's offers to the Palla State's Interstate Park Commission noted quote, noted several partnership proposals and stated that the casino is quote "prepared to support PICP with general financial support and or project specific support for projects that are not at all related to the casino development, such as building new exhibits in Fort Lee, New Jersey." Thankfully the Palla State's Park Commission was not so easily swayed and voted on September 15<sup>th</sup> to object Genting's request for access to parkland to build Exit 15B. And as noted by the times union yesterday, it would be interesting to know how many people wearing green shirts in support of the resort today were paid to be here. I urge the gaming facilities location board to consider the previous and yet to be heard demonstrations of opposition. See through the Sterling Forest Resort illusion of public support and site no casino in Tuxedo. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Next up is Dan Gladding.

Dan Gladding: I'm Dan Gladding, from Tuxedo, and you can tell from my shirt I'm asking that you would not site a casino in Tuxedo. You're using many criteria to guide your decision. One criteria in this host community support for a casino. Tuxedo is deeply deeply divided on a casino decision. Although we have not been permitted to vote on a casino decision, our town supervisor did ask to receive emails from town residents to show their support or opposition. The result was sixty seven percent against the casino. A further analysis of each individual response shows that actually seventy four percent were opposed. We also had several public hearings at which seventy two percent of the speakers were opposed. Another indication of Tuxedo opposition is a petition by residents asking that the town board re-send its June vote agreeing to send a supporting letter. That petition was presented last night and had hundreds and hundreds of signatures. Our town board did not anonymously approve the supporting letter. The vote was four in favor and one against. The board of trustee of the Village of Tuxedo Park which is located within the town of Tuxedo was also asked to provide a supporting level, letter. The village trustees voted three in favor and two strongly opposed. Even though Genting promised to pay the village ten million dollars to buy that supporting letter. I have no other votes on casinos by town or village boards in twenty one communities around our region. Boards in 76% of those places voted unanimously to approve casinos. It's certainly much more fair to place casinos in communities that unanimously support them. In your deliberations please remember that a large number of people in Tuxedo and probably a majority do not want to host a casino. You also should know that there are a large number of homes that are very close to the casino location. The site is eight tenths of a mile from the entrance of one housing development and one point one mile from a second. In total there are two hundred and thirty nine homes in these immediately adjacent areas. The value of these homes will substantially reduce by a nearby casino and this attendant traffic and social issues. Confirming this opinion a 2013 study by the National Association of Realtors concluded that, in general, casinos appear to have a negative impact on home prices in the vicinity of the casinos. Sure there are other proposed sites under considering with far fewer nearby homes and people. A major goal of casino legislation is to provide economic support to disadvantaged communities. However we are now talking about a casino in Tuxedo, a town which is not disadvantaged. I'd like to read a few statistics from the US Census Bureau most recent American community survey. These statistics compare Sullivan and Ulster counties to Tuxedo. Average household annual income: Sullivan, sixty two thousand one

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twenty; Ulster, seventy six thousand six twenty nine; Tuxedo, one hundred twenty seven thousand and three dollars. Tuxedo income is more than double Sullivan's and the sixty six percent higher than Ulster's. Percent of families below poverty level: Sullivan, twelve point zero; Ulster, seven point seven; Tuxedo, one point six percent. A profound difference. Percent of families using food stamps or supplemental nutrition assistance programs: Sullivan, eleven point seven percent; Ulster, ten point four; Tuxedo, zero – absolutely none. The upstate New York Gaming Economic Development Act is supposedly to high economic need areas. The greatest need is obviously not in Tuxedo. It will be incredibly unfair to the many struggling upstate communities if you decide to site a casino in prosperous Tuxedo. In summary I ask you to be fair to the many towns who so desperately need and want a casino, and which are willing to live with all the negative consequences. Please do not site a casino in Tuxedo where a very large number of residents are opposed and there is absolutely no economic justification for one. I have a few seconds left. I would like to begin reading a list of organizations that are against the casino: Scenic Hudson, Appellation Trail Conservancy, New York/New Jersey Trail Conference, Natural Resource Defense Council, Ramapo River Committee, Hudson Highlands Land Trust, The New Jersey State Senate, Appellation Mountain Club.

Kevin Law: Time's up.

Dan Gladding: Okay thank you very much.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Thank you. Next speaker is Judy Kennedy, mayor of the city of Newburgh. Mayor thank you.

Judy Kennedy: Yes first I'd just like to say thank you to all you board members for serving. It's a big job. As mayor of the city of Newburgh I think I have a little of a feeling of that heavy mantle that's been laid on your shoulders. Consider twenty six thousand people in a twenty mile square, twenty mile radius around the city of Newburgh living below the poverty line. Eight thousand students in our Newburgh and large city school district receiving some kind of aid and needing a subsidized lunches. Twenty seven percent point nine percent of our people who just in the city of Newburgh living below the poverty line. When you consider, oh and the other statistic, the average median income in the city of Newburgh is twenty five percent less than that of those living in Sullivan County. When you consider the density of the poverty in that twenty mile square radius, the number of people, never mind percentage, the sheer number of people that really need to have help. There is no place else in this region that needs it like this city does. We have sewers falling in this year. Bridge fell in. We have infrastructure falling apart. We have all kinds of things going on. Fifty years of being in this hole. Newburgh was voted the all American city in fifty two and started the downwards slide and it's pretty much down there now. Now the good news is is that there's some pieces in place to start pulling it together. This casino would be the jump start to put those pieces together and start building something. Don't get me wrong we actually support a casino in Sullivan County. We truly believe that two is the answer. And when you think about economic the economic factor, seventy nine percent of this decision is built on economic factors. You have to consider both the plusses and the minuses, the assets and the debits. When you consider that number, twenty six thousand people living below the poverty line

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in a twenty mile radius. You have to consider what that means in terms of social services going out by the state, it means in terms of crime prevention, police support, the amount of money the polices have to spend on a yearly basis dealing with the poverty issues. That's on the negative side when you look at the checks and balances. So when you and I'm sure that Sullivan county has some of these same social issues. When you add jobs, and we're talking between direct and indirect jobs at the casino level and then all of the secondary and ancillary jobs that come in. For instance I have somebody right now talking about a shuttle service coming from New York City coming on the, on the river back and forth. All kinds of secondary businesses spring up to support that tourist industry. When you consider both sides of this fence, this decision, it's going to come out at two casinos: one in Sullivan, one in Newburgh – is really going to bring that line up. It's not just the amount of money a casino brings in but in terms of helping, fixing social issues, reducing the social services budget because people have real jobs: they have jobs that are union wages. This casino already has PLAs in place with all the unions. Both inside and outside the casino. The construction folks as well as the people who live inside the, err work inside the casino. So when you change that whole economic picture, you change that balance and consider both sides of this both the expenditures of what it costs right now to support that number of people that are living below the poverty line you're gonna find that that just putting that jumpstarted is gonna make a big difference in turning this state around in the Hudson Valley and in the Catskills. Not to mention that we also have agreements in place this this resort has agreements in place with all of the regional performing arts. With other, and by the way I'll mention those – Sugarloaf, Mid-Hudson Civic Center, Paramount just off Broadway and Shadowland. Shadowland happens to be in Ulster County. And then there's one in Dutchess County. So it's a broad circle of support for people. It's supporting the black dirt farmers. It's supporting a whole lot of other businesses that are behind this. You have a lot of power as a board to really change the destiny, the destiny of people that are living in this twenty mile radius. And I'm asking the board today to consider both the pluses and minuses. To consider the tourist industry. To consider the school district. Ten million dollars to the school.

Kevin Law: Time's up.

Judy Kennedy: Okay. Ten million dollars to the school district, two point five million to the city alone by this decision because of the agreements in place. Thank you very much.

Kevin Law: Thank you mayor

Bill Thompson: Scott can I follow up with a question? Mayor. Mayor how do you think of the the job issue? Have you had any conversations with Hudson Valley Casino and Resort or others about whether the, you know the employees that would be in on this, whether they're gonna come from the same group that is included in the twenty seven point nine percent poverty rate you have in the city?

Judy Kennedy: Absolutely I've had those discussions because that's where my heart is. And so we've talked about one of the big issues in the city of Newburgh is transportation and getting people to jobs. So there's an agreement in place to to bring people from the east side of the city

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which is where census track four and five are. So transportation is one issue. The other issue is training and really life coaching and skills to help people be prepared for those jobs. Hudson Valley Casino and Resorts is very aware of those issues so that we can get ahead of those and have people prepared to take these jobs. They're very committed to working with the census track four and five where so much of this poverty is condensed into and to bring about a change to the city of Newburgh. And I really can't tell you how passionate I am about it. Those folks need help and we need help. Okay? Any other questions?

Bill Thompson: Nope.

Kevin Law: Thank you mayor. Herb Clark. Thank you Herb. Five minutes.

Herb Clark: Good morning. My name is Herb Clark. Vice president of the Sullivan County Visitors Association. I would to thank the board for their time and diligence in this process and do not envy you one bit on the decisions you're about to make in the next month.

Gaming Committee Board (Kevin Law and Bill Thompson): Thank you.

Herb Clark: You're welcome.

Kevin Clark: We're gonna make four people happy and twelve people enemies. Right?

Herb Clark: Yes you are. Two years ago Governor Cuomo said "when small businesses do well, New York does well." I could not have said this better. As the Sullivan County Visitors Association, we represent over three hundred small businesses in the Sullivan County Catskills that together we promote and market. It is these businesses that generate over forty million dollars in sales tax dollars a year and they are the backbone of Sullivan County and New York State's economy. These family owned and operated businesses generate the majority of their revenue in a short six to eight month window when visitors come and travel here. If you factor in a cold spring, a wet summer, an early fall, visitation drops and so do their revenues. These businesses face a long four month off season in that event. Where a county with only seventy thousand plus do not offset the losses that they have lost through their tourism season. For many businesses it is a daily struggle and I hate to say a lot of them don't make it from this poster that's in front of the podium today. We see too many businesses closing yet despite the lackluster economy they've held high hopes for an economic revitalization to reignite tourism and increase year round spending by visitors and local residents. Resort gaming in the Sullivan County Catskills is that spark that will help fuel spending and increase revenue. Sales tax, jobs, and an improved quality of life for the residents. Combining new year round resort gaming destinations with the existing natural assets of the Sullivan County Catskills will create a very sustainable model. Just imagine a Disney without walls, where couples and families come to enjoy gaming, but also indoor and outdoor water parks. Golf at one of the most famous gulf courses in the world. Fly fish on the famous Beaver Kill or Willowemoc Rivers. Water sport on the beautiful Delaware River. Enjoy music at the original nineteen seventy nine Woodstock site. Or just sit back, watch the artisans, and the performers that have made the Catskills their home. Or sit and

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watch the eagles fly over the majestic mountains. ‘Scuse me. The two applicants for the casino licenses in our Sullivan County Catskills understand how critically important their business is to our businesses small businesses. And they’ve already conducted meetings with our small businesses and begun to forge relationships to partner together when the casino resort destinations are licensed in the Sullivan County Catskills. I don’t believe any other regional applicant has reached out as much as our two applicants have. These small businesses that continue to serve the travelers and provide jobs to the residents of Sullivan County have invested their lives and future in the tourism industry. And they look forward to the economic resurgence that Destination Gaming Resorts will provide. On behalf of the Sullivan County Tourism Industry we ask you, the gaming facility location gaming board, to support the small businesses of Sullivan County who for decades have welcomed national and international visitors. Award us the two gaming licenses and we will be the small businesses that can make New York do well. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you Herb. Back to our list for those who signed up this morning, Tom Wasserman. Come on up Tom. Five minutes or less please.

Tom Wasserman: Good morning members of the board. My name is Tom Wasserman and I am a lifelong resident of Sullivan County. Since I was fifteen years old I have been involved in the hospitality industry in the county and still am to this day. I worked in a multitude of hotels that once spread throughout our county. The sad role call of extinct hotels could continue for hours but I am not here to dwell on the past. I’m here to impress upon you the absolute need for casinos in Sullivan County. As I drive around the county in my job as a sales representative for crafters distributor, I see shuttered storefronts, abandoned buildings and speak to many people who are frustrated with the lack of opportunity and jobs in our county. I counseled my own children to leave our county because of that. In my opinion Orange County should have never been considered for a casino site. The authors of the legislation, Senator Bonacic and Assemblyman Pretlow, never intended that a casino be located in Orange County. After the referendum passed allowing gaming, which by the way passed in Sullivan County with the largest plurality of any county in the state, we were once again slapped in the face with all the late to the game players making their pitches. As you probably know the casino carrot has been dangled in front of us in Sullivan County for over forty years. Just last week the Times Harold Record reported that Sullivan was the only county in the seven county Mid-Hudson region to lose jobs in the year ending August two thousand fourteen. The need is so apparent. To grant a license anywhere in Orange County would be yet another punch to the Sullivan County gut. The overwhelming majority of Sullivan County residents want this to happen. There are no organized anti-casino groups in Sullivan and as you have seen that cannot be said for Orange County. The following is the last line of an editorial in the Albany Times Union pertaining to a group attendant to attain a license in Orange County. I quote “selling out to the highest bidder would corrupt the selling process and like so many economic development schemes before this, lie in the face of all the promises to help areas that need help the most,” end quote. The groups that want to bring casinos to Sullivan, Mohegan Sun and Adelaar, are highly qualified and respected. Their plans will involve the community and bring many well-paying permanent jobs to our county. Mohegan Sun in Connecticut has the highest casino grossing gross in the western

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hemisphere. So they obviously know how to get this done the right way. And both groups are ready to build as soon as licenses are granted. I believe any thoughtful person knows what the right thing to do is, and that is to grant two licenses in Sullivan County. Members of the board, I hope you will see what the right thing to do is. We want them. We need them. And we deserve them. Thank you very much.

Kevin Law: Thank you Tom. Craig Pissante. Is Craig here? Craig.

Craig Pissante: How are you? Pleasure to meet you today.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

Craig Pissante: I come here kind of frustrated. And I'm frustrated because I have five minutes to defend the survival of a forty four year family legacy. A ski area that was built in nineteen fifty. A father of two with one on the way, hopes for their future. My father purchased the Villa Roma Resort back then in nineteen sixty nine. Back then we had twenty four hotel rooms, one outdoor pool. We've grown up today to two hundred hotel rooms, two hundred and fifty time share suites, eighteen hole golf course, six outdoor pools, you name it we have it. Back in the day growing up in the early eighties. I'd go with my father to the hotel association meetings and we'd watch the hotels start to fall one by one. As a naïve child I said to my dad "isn't that better for us? Doesn't that mean more business for us? Less competitors." He said "son I'd rather be the best of ten than the best of one." And that's what we are right now. We're the best of one. In fact no one in this room has mentioned the Villa Roma Resort and Conference Center. We're forgotten about on the western end of the county. Back where there's farms. Back where we could have had gas drilling for natural gas, but it's not good for the environment. But farms nowadays: too expensive to run them. So what do we have left? We have the tourism industry and everyone spoke to you about how casinos have been ripped away from us for decades. And that's proven for how many hotels have fell. I go to Holiday Mount Ski and Fun Park. I purchased it myself in the year two thousand with some partners and my family. In two thousand and five we invested two point five million dollars in an outdoor family fun park. At that point there was still four or five hotels left that used to feed us business. Since that point right now, our revenue has dropped to half of what it was originally, just ski in two thousand. So in, we are right now currently our revenue is half of what it was in the year two thousand. And we have two year round facilities. What the casinos will mean to us is traffic. What the casinos will mean to us is bringing back tourism. That's what we know. We don't want handouts. We want to do the work ourselves. We have two great projects in Sullivan County. We've got a mega one, you can't deny it, Adelaar. But they have an inward facing model. And we've got Mohegan Sun. Which has an outward facing model. And when you see their track record and how they deal with local businesses, it's one that we wanna count on. And don't get me wrong, Adelaar will be a great asset for us also. However the two of them are imperative. History proved it. You'd never even really heard or mentioned the Villa Roma Resort and Conference Center today. Cause we're the best of one. Don't make that happen in the casino process and how you pick them. They need to be together so they can create the destination that they need to be. Final, and my most important hat is a father. I grew up on my family's business and I don't want to let that go. I'm trying to

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build a destination and home for my two daughters, third on the way. Best things that have ever happened to me in my life. But all I want is a place and a family business for us to work at. So I'm not asking you guys for any handout, all I'm asking you for is to bring tourism back to where it belongs. Bring it back to the Catskills. Thank you. God Bless. Have a great day.

Gaming Committee Board: Thank you

Kevin Law: Thank you. Good job. Thank you Craig, great job. Next up Gwen Johnson Dutchess County Legislator. Is Gwen here? Is this Gwen? Yep. High Gwen. Gwen like the other electives I'm gonna hold you to five minutes as well.

Gwen Johnson: Don't worry I'm gonna be short and sweet.

Kevin Law: Oh I love it. Love it.

Paul Francis: You're already sweet.

Gwen Johnson: Good morning. My name is Dutchess County Legislator Gwen Johnson. I also served on the city council for eight years. My husband is on the school board here in Pokipsy and my son is a council member, the youngest in the city of Pokipsy ever elected at twenty one years of age. So I have a lot of history here in the city. I am here in support of Hudson Valley Casino and Resort. This project will bring ten million annually to the Newburgh school district. Provide two point five million annually for the public school safety and infrastructure. Provide almost three hundred permanent good paying jobs with benefits. Newburgh has many challenges. Having the Hudson Valley Casino and Resort located so close to our precious Stewart Airport will increase ridership of people flying and staying at our hotels. Spending money at our malls. The Hudson Valley Casino will not only revitalize Newburgh but will revitalize Beacon and Pokipsy as well. The Hudson Valley Casino and Resort will benefit the three counties: Orange, Ulster, and Dutchess. We have route eighty four. Eighty seven. We have Metro North. The airport, to bring many visitors to help our economy. Thank you so much for having this public hearing and allowing our voiced to be heard. And welcome to the city of Pokipsy and the Grand View and Shadows, our waterfront project that we are very proud of. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you Gwen. Thank you Gwen. Next Mr. Christian Mathews, Tuxedo Town Board.

Christian Mathews: Hi, good morning. Thank you for service to listen to. Thank you for your service, good morning and thank you for listening to everybody. I'm here, my name is Christian Mathews and I'm on the town board. I am on the town board

Bill Thompson: We can hear him.

Kevin Thompson: There you go, better.

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Christian Mathews: in the town of Tuxedo. And I'm here solely to speak of sound mitigation on the New York State Thruway. You have two areas of town that straddle directly over, on the New York State Thruway, interstate eighty seven. And there's many children that live in that area. We've been promised sound mitigation by the New York State Thruway and all we have gotten is a pile of construction debris dumped and an attempt to cover that with top soil and call that sound mitigation. I think the children, I think the residents and all my constituents deserve sound mitigation. The studies have been done. They ran out of money and inadequate attempt at it was.

Bill Thompson: What can we do about that?

Christian Mathews: Excuse me?

Bill Thompson: What can we do about that?

Christian Mathews: If it can be looked at in the seeker processes. If, I understand you are a board of placing it. However New York State has put out requests for four casinos and Orange County Tuxedo, New York is the gateway to a tremendous amount of increased ridership that'll be heading to these casinos and if there is anything you can do. I, you would know better than I would of what you folks can do. However if it can be mentioned through the process wherever possible, we need sound mitigation. And we need it to coincide with these projects. And anything you could do would be very helpful.

Bill Thompson: There's a proposal for a casino in your town.

Christian Mathews: I'm aware of that.

Bill Thompson: Are you in favor of that or are you against that?

Christian Mathews: Well we have a host agreement and I don't know how much I'm allowed to speak about all of that. As I could jeopardize, there's language in it and umm.

Dennis Glazor: How did you vote?

Christian Mathews: I voted no. I don't know what to say about that if I'm allowed to speak on that or not.

Bill Thompson: Right I don't. Listen I don't want to put you in an uncomfortable position but, what we're here to do today is to hear thoughts of the public for and against the proposals that are for their communities and we don't have much to do with sound mitigation so.

Christian Mathews: Yes well I appreciate you being here and I thank you for listening to what I have already said.

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Kevin Law: Thank you Christian for coming down.

Christian Mathews: I appreciate your time and thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Next up Patricia Malarky, town of New Windsor.

Patricia Malarky: Good morning.

Kevin Law: Hi.

Patricia Malarky: I am Patricia Malarky, deputy supervisor and councilwoman of the town of New Windsor. I have been a servant in the town of New Windsor for over twenty years. We have a great town. We know we do. But we could be even better. One of the jobs that we're looking forward to in the town of New Windsor is to have a casino. Our own casino. Right there at Stewart Field. You're looking for a great site. People with other casinos in mind have talked about Stewart Field. We have Stewart Field. Stewart Field is in the town of New Windsor. We are ready to go. Stewart Field will not bother any other construction. It is set. It is located on \_\_\_\_\_ eighty seventh and eight four. We will not disturb any other property in the Town of New Windsor. We're looking forward to getting this casino. Our people in the town of New Windsor support this. We will bring money into the state, the state needs money. It's a great location and our time in the town of New Windsor that we serve is serving not only the Town of New Windsor, the County of Orange, and the state of New York. We're looking forward to doing that. And one way to serve the state of New York is to give New Windsor the casino. Thank you for your time.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Helena Manzione and Dally Leevie. They're coming up together. Okay how you doing?

Helen Manzione: I'm doing well. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Sharing your time? Or?

Helen Manzione: We're gonna share our time.

Kevin Law: Okay thank you.

Helen Manzione: Okay. Good morning my name is Helen Manzione. I'm general manager of Watermark Communications WSUL, WVOS radio stations. Sullivan County's heritage radio stations. One component on commercial radio stations is to serve the public which we can do much better in a healthy economy. I also sit on the board of the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce. While figures released this past Thursday revealed Orange, Dutchess, and Ulster counties have shown appreciable increase in private sector jobs. Sullivan, the only county in the seven county Hudson Valley region, has experienced job loss. We strongly support the forward movement of the two proposed casino resort projects in Sullivan County. There is no question

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that the economic growth potential that would ensure the residents of Sullivan County not only good paying jobs, but new ancillary business opportunities as well. As the population grows the need for additional products and services also grows. Better paying jobs mean an increase in per capita income. Making the area a more desirable place to live and work. Since income from the stations is derived from advertising and marketing, and increase business would have an almost immediate, direct, and positive impact on my business. Since both Mohegan Sun and Adelaar are ready to provide the much needed business development to Sullivan County, we are ready to welcome them and we hope that you will feel compelled to let this happen. Thank you for your time.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Your colleague?

: Good morning. My name is Dally Leevie. My business is Catskill Promotions. I'm located in Sullivan County and I've worked in the hospitality field and event marketing for most of my career. I have been involved in my community, local business, and the campaign to bring a casino to Sullivan County for over twenty five years. I chose this business to be a part of the new Sullivan County movement. It is because I live and work here that I see the potential, but it is hard to attend events and travel shows to hear person after person talk about how they used to come there. With all that I love about Sullivan County, it does not have multiple attractions that bring millions of visitors. The Montreign Resort Casino will be located on the site of Adelaar. A four season destination resort that will not only help our economic needs but immediately help us regain our placement as a premier tourist destination. There are already large tourist destinations in our surrounding counties. But they do not provide us with the overflow that we need. It is easy for Orange County to join a path when the road has already been paved for them. When others have prepared the foundation. Sullivan County has been in this from the beginning. It has been a long time with a long bullet list of more disappointments than hope and progress. I am grateful that these developers want to invest in a project of this scope in Sullivan County. They deserve to be able to do it with the security and chance to succeed. I want to see them given one hundred percent and give us a hundred percent. With hope as close as it has ever been, I came here today wondering what could I say after all of these years, all of these meetings, to stand out, to make a difference. To remind you the power of impact that you hold. The power of hope, the power of revitalization for Sullivan County. There's a famous quote by Margaret Meade: "Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world, for indeed that is all who ever have." I'm asking you to be the few, to be the part of the change that Sullivan County needs today. We are ready now.

Paul Francis: Dally, before you leave. You mentioned the Adelaar project, you didn't mention Concord specifically. Do you favor both?

Dally Leevie: I favor progress in Sullivan County. I do feel that one casino to start would give us the exploration that we need to see and then we have a lot of potential down the road.

Paul Francis: And as between the two?

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Dally Leevie: That's between the two.

Paul Francis: As between the two?

Dally Leevie: I'm sorry?

Paul Francis: You prefer the Adelaar to the Concord proposal?

Dally Leevie: I am more familiar and have supported that project from the beginning.

Paul Francis: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Great, thank you. Thank you Helena and Dally. Funny story from yesterday, and we welcome if two people want to come up and share their time that's fine, these two guys come up last night up in Albany and you know the first guy says "I'm Joe Smith and here's my partner." He speaks for the whole five minutes and then he says "now I would like to hand it over to my partner" and was like uh-uh. If you're partners then you should have given two of your five minutes. So you guys did it perfectly thank you. Jackie Leventof. Hi Jackie.

Jackie Leventof: Good morning. Thank you so much for being here and giving us the opportunity. My name is Jackie Leventof and I was the President CEO of the Sullivan County of Commerce for seventeen years. During that time I also had the pleasure of serving with the late New York state assemblyman Jacob Gunther and his gaming task force. Casino gaming was always part of the future plans for Sullivan County. I want to take you on a time journey and explain how the two proposed projects will bring us back to the future. Just like the movie of the nineteen eighties I want you to imagine Sullivan County in the mid nineteen fifties. We have over five hundred hotels. Two thousand bungalow colonies. One thousand rooming houses. And so many tourists that people don't have a problem finding a job. The trip from New York City was not a problem from them then and it's not a problem for us now. Back in our time machine it's nineteen sixty six and with the help of the major hotel owners we're celebrating the grand opening and ribbon cutting of our international airport. It has almost sixty three hundred feet of runway which is long enough to land commercial airliners. Which we're gonna be needing soon because the talk of us getting gaming, the first gaming casino in the north east. Well the first legal gaming casino that is. Our resorts have been running card rooms for years and people can't seem to get enough. There are waiting lists for people that wanna gamble and just not enough chairs. The idea of gaming coming to the Catskills is born. Casinos mean jobs. It's the white button with big red letters my father wears every day as he goes to work at the Raleigh Hotel as the captain of the dining room. It is nineteen seventy four and the gas shortage has an impact on our tourist trade. Hotel owners and business people have banded together to form the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce and advertise that visitors are guaranteed to have gas available for the trip to the Catskills. They know they have to keep people coming back to the Catskills. There's talk about casinos in Atlantic City in a few years and that may hurt our tourist trade. And in nineteen seventy eight, the first casino did open in Atlantic City and did have an impact on our businesses and our history was changed. But we continued to fight to bring casino gaming to

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Sullivan County because we know it's what we need to compete. Not only just for Atlantic City but for other places. Since then surrounding states of Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and even our neighbors to the north Canada have opened casino venues and all have taken dollars out of New York. This brings me back to our future. Sullivan County has the history and experience to have resort properties work together to be a world renowned tourist destination. It's time for us to bring back the venues for conventions. Tourism and year round economic prosperity. We need to go back to that future. Our future holds national conventions, jobs, new businesses and attain to our place as a destination of choice. But ready? We are more than ready. For over fifty years we have been planning. Not ten months, fifty years. We have done studies. We have held rallies in the county and in Albany. We have casino conferences. We have had task forces looking at everything from housing to education to daycare on casino gaming and what it will do to our community. We are ready and we are ready now. The two projects for our community are led by recognized leaders in the casino industry. Mohegan Sun project is led by individuals have Sullivan County hospitality in their blood. Mitchell, Grossinger, Ettice, and Cliff Earlick, Sullivan County is their home. They remember those days. Their families were intrical parts of the Sullivan Counties hospitality industry and they will take us back to the future. For them and for many of us it's just about the money. This is personal. The operatives of Empire Resorts have been a part of the Catskills since nineteen fifty eight. They are our neighbors, our friends, our colleagues, and our trusted partners. They have been with us on this wild ride for the entire time. Sullivan County is right for the growth. We're right for the words and more importantly we're right for the intent of the legislation. We are right for the community revitalization that will come with this combined one point five billion dollar investment. The approval of both Montreign and Mohegan Sun, by creating the business cluster, will form a cooperative research and competitive striving for the better of New York. A recent article shared that one of your major concerns is the decision that is a proximity to metro New York that the Orange County properties have. I ask that you look at this as a detriment and not an advantage. With less than being an hour away, those projects have the likelihood of being just day trips or evening trips. People will go there, spend their money, and go home. The concern of being boxed out by surrounding states is just a short term issue. The greater issue is that in seven years, venues in metro New York will have gaming. And you will see exactly what is happening now in Atlantic City with locations striving to survive. The Key points of Montreign and Mohegan Sun are the integration of the entire community sharing this development. Local venues, skiing, rafting, and other wonderful offerings are all part of the two entertainment destinations planned.

Kevin Law: Time's up.

Jackie Leventof: Their our true community partners because they are Sullivan County and they're already working to bring us back to our future.

Kevin Law: Thank you Jackie.

Jackie Leventof: Thank you.

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Kevin Law: Thank you. Okay now we're going back to the other list of preregistered. William J. Reeber Junior. Supervisor of the Town of Thompson. Supervisor, good morning.

William J. Reeber Junior. Good morning.

Kevin Law: How are you?

William J. Reeber Junior: As you said my name is Bill Reeber. I am supervisor of the Town of Thompson, Sullivan County. I'm also a realtor. With our family business Reeber Realty located on Broadway and Monticello since nineteen seventy. I'd like to thank the board today for this opportunity to speak. Today you have and will continue to hear from folks across Sullivan County that our projects are ready now. I would like to focus the bulk of my remarks on how truly ready our projects are and how the Town of Thompson ensured that these projects will be ready to begin construction once a license is granted. Well before an anticipation of the referendum passing in last November, the town, county, and both Town of Thompson applicants worked on their respected proposals for years, not months. It is beyond a doubt that both Sullivan County proposals are by any measure shovel ready. The Town of Thompson and an open process completed and approved all the necessary permits and plans submitted by both of our applicants. In fact one of our projects Mohegan Sun at the Concord has been issued a building permit and has foundations already poured ensuring their speed to market. A copy of that permit issued in two thousand eight is before yield and it has been continuously renewed by the applicant since two thousand and eight. The other project Montreign has full site plan approval for the hotel and casino and can be issued a building permit shortly If the commission were to grant a license to Montreign and allow them to operate at Monticello Raceway during construction, they were be the first casino to market. To get our projects to this point did not happen overnight. To get it right it took the time and dedication of our town employees, volunteer planning board members, professional staff, and the cooperation of our applicants over the past several years. As you're well aware the state and environmental review process requires a hard look at all potential impacts. The seeker analysis on projects this magnitude should take any applicant years to properly complete. The Montreign proposal took two years to complete. The Orange County projects have come to the game late and are in the early stages of environmental seeker review and have not completed site planning reviews to the point of final approval. I find it incomprehensible that a proper environmental review for a project the size of a casino resort can be as fast tracked as some developers would have you believe. Furthermore many of the Orange County proposals are froth with the probability of well-funded court challenges on many fronts and have tremendous community opposition. In comparison our applicants have completed their environmental and planning reviews and have been awarded final site plan approvals. Seeker findings have been fully vetted and finalized. Most importantly the statute of limitations has passed for most challenges to be brought, thus making our projects again, truly shovel ready. Throughout the process Sullivan County residents have had countless opportunities to review, comment, and have input on the two proposals. Our residents have been informed throughout the approval process and they overwhelmingly support it. The town of Thompson which is home to the Monticello Raceway and Casino does not want to lose sight of our commitment to the horse racing industry and the families that depend on it. They have struggled for decades of economic

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decline providing jobs job opportunities for our horsemen, breeders, and residents. Monticello Raceway and Casino has committed to retain horse racing and continue to provide job opportunities for horsemen, breeders, trainers, and others if they are awarded a license. Let's also not lose sight of the fact that requirement of the RFA was for bidders to recognize and appreciate the racing and gaming facilities currently in place. There is not a proposal in Orange County that can show anything but a negative impact on current racinos, both here in Sullivan and at Yonkers and Ecuador raceways. Without a doubt a casino sited in Orange County jeopardizes the future of those facilities and becomes a nail in the coffin of our horsemen and their families whose livelihood depend on the racing industry and the hundreds of direct and indirect insularly jobs at Monticello Raceway. Economically both of our projects have demonstrated that they have financial commitments in place to make this happen. Personally as a realtor, Thompson Supervisor, and as a community member I see the difficulty our residents have of making ends meet. Jobs here are few and far between and those paying a fair and living wage are even scarcer. Sadly many struggle to pay even the most modest rents of six to seven hundred dollars a month. And housing affordability is at a very low level. The focus and intent of the governor's legislation was to revitalize and reenergize the Catskill region. Siting two casinos in the town of Thompson will create a regional, four season destination resort. When played with family friendly venues such as a waterpark, skiing, outdoor adventures, an entertainment village and more. It will be an economic engine which can and will transform the Catskill Mid-Hudson region and tourism, drive tourism for decades to come. The Town of Thompson and Sullivan County welcome and respectfully request your approval. We are indeed ready now and we are one voice for Sullivan County. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you supervisor. Michael Amo. Michael the floor is yours.

Michael Amo: Thank you humble members of the gaming location board. My name is Michael Amo. I am the chairperson of the Orange County Legislators Economic Development and Gaming Committee and I thank you for allowing us to present today. In April the legislature reconstituted its Orange County off track betting committee to form the Economic Development Gaming Committee for the purpose of monitoring off track betting in the establishment of a casino in Orange County and to speak on behalf of the Orange County Legislature. The committee is comprised of eight legislator members. Myself as chairman and the principal party leader, minority leader Jeffrey Burklin, and legislators Bennell Heins, Simmonds, Wong, and Veril. Committee met on six occasions beginning in April through September seventeenth. We developed criteria that we thought would be appropriate to apply to make a decision on whether or not a casino would benefit Orange County in any way. It was, it was, we received input from the county executive, departments and agencies, and the impact may have, a casino, more than one casino may have on the government, the residents, and the taxpayers of Orange County. The committee convened on its first meeting on April twenty ninth to hear from the county executive and we then considered the discussion of the general consensus of the committee. What should we do? What positions would the county take? The committee then discussed a proposal draft resolution for the legislature to consider that supported Orange County casinos so long as they complied with the following criteria. We wanted to see full local support from the principalities. We want to see a demonstration of collaborative working with other counties which we've heard

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is a problem. We wanted to provide funding and resources to institutions in Orange County that would benefit or be benefited by casinos, namely Orange County Community College Hospitality Program, to all county wide infrastructure, countywide traffic improvements, local emergency improvements as well as county wide and especially social service programs and mental health programs, adult early addiction and mental health services. And finally we would only support a casino that did not ask for any tax abatements. The above criteria was formally and overwhelmingly adopted by the legislature number one hundred of two fourteen on May first, May first two thousand fourteen. Each committee member was tasked with evaluating how each proposed member address the county's criteria. All developers were asked to submit their a letter in support of these resolutions, these resolutions and how they would comply. On July twenty third the committee reviewed the applications that were submitted, the materials were submitted from the Hudson Valley Casino Resort and Live Hotel Casino in Caesars, New York. The legislature staff then contacted the other six projects who had not submitted and asked them to to give us the details that we asked for and also we asked them all to include something in regarding waging benefit packages for Orange County residents. The committee reviewed on August twentieth all the responses from the casinos and all the developers had this submit their responses on time. Although the responses were good, we thought they were a little uneven and we needed an opportunity to talk with them. So it was the committee's desire to then hold a public meeting on September twelfth where we invited all the developers to come before us and speak. One of the underlying themes of this process was that we kept hearing the negative impacts, and I'm sure you're hearing them today between Orange and Sullivan County, from surrounding counties in our area about who gets a casino. And the media reported this and probably promoted this. That our committee felt that the county needs an outreach mechanism whereby all counties in the Catskill Hudson Valley work together in the siting process so that we can have it for the betterment of the entire region. So the committee has asked me and the chairman of legislature to make sure it's clear to you that it's our desire to emphasize that point and our desire to engage in a regional collaboration during the testimony today. On our September twelfth meeting the committee considered all the proposals and listened to the developers which were: Caesars New York, Hudson Valley Casino and Resort, Live Hotel Casino, Stewart Phillips Resort World, Hudson Valley, and New Windsor. It is the anonymous decision of the economic development committee that all of these six gaming projects satisfactory addressed all our concerns that the legislature had set forth in its main resolution. Some perhaps better than others but all satisfactorily met the conditions. Therefor the gaming committee supports each and every application proposed for gaming facility in Orange County.

Bill Thompson: You had me there Michael right until the point when you endorsed all six. You had me there until you endorsed all six.

Kevin Law: And time is up. The time is up thank you, thank you very much for your presentation.

Bill Thompson: It's a perfect process.

Kevin Law: Jorge Delgado.

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Bill Thompson: Making the tough decisions. See you don't get to do that.

Kevin Law: Five minutes starts now.

Jorge Delgado: Good morning.

Kevin Law: Hi.

Jorge Delgado: I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you at the board for its time. My name is Jorge Delgado. I am a healthcare provider in Liberty, New York. I have lived and practiced in Liberty, New York for over twenty years. I would like to present a background myself before I go on. My family and I are immigrants who are now proud citizens of the United States. We came to this country to better ourselves. While growing up in Newburgh, New York my goal was to become a healthcare provider. The time came for me to start attending college but did not have the full financial resources to cover all my college expenses. I became aware of an employment opportunity in the Catskills. I started working for the Pines Hotels and their Ehrlich family back in the summer of nineteen seventy nine as a busboy. I was amazed at how busy South Fallsburg and Monticello and the surrounding community were back then. The areas were full of businesses and were vacationers. A very different struggling community exists now. I worked at the Pines until nineteen eighty three when it was time for me to leave the area and continue my professional education in another state. During the time working at the Pines I was able to work weekends, holidays, and summers in order to help subsidize my college course. To this date myself and many other college students that worked at Pines and other resort hotels in the Catskills give our thanks to them to help us achieve our goals throughout a place of employment. This employment opportunity has long been gone and needed in this region. This opportunity will be re-established when the Mohegan Sun opens its doors at the once magnificent Concord Hotel. Bringing the Mohegan Sun to the Catskills will provide opportunity for immediate employer to come to the area and provide healthcare coverage benefits to the a community that ranks low in the health ranking. Sullivan County, for many years, has had a health ranking of sixty one out of sixty two with the Bronx being the worst. Not a good stat. Bringing in the Mohegan Sun to the Catskills will help generate additional future business to come into the region that will also provide additional health insurance. This will help the county and this date with the plan to reduce the challenges that the unemployment rate, one of the highest in the state, places on the growing social medical program system. The health department of this county needs help. It needs lots of financial help in order to turn this band trend around. Bringing in the Mohegan Sun to the Catskills will assist the health department in this county and its plan to help increase the health of the community. This will ultimately assist at reducing the high mortality rate, the high cancer rate, and the high premature deaths that Sullivan County faces. As mentioned before, this county has a very low health ranking. Sullivan County has been in health crisis. This crisis that Sullivan County health services has been tackling for years with progressive shrinking financial resources. This community has a staggering shrinking tax base. Residents are moving out, businesses are closing, and high school graduates are not coming back to this region after college graduation. The Mohegan Sun at the Concord will help stop that trend

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by affording a long-term employment opportunity with health benefits and motivate all the businesses to open their doors in the region. And help give a reason for our kids to come back and stay in New York in the community that they grew up in. As stated at the Mohegan Sun's presentation on September ninth to the board, Mohegan Sun is ready to break ground immediately with the permits to do so. The Mohegan Sun will bring positive community impact by having three development projects at three different sites across the county. Along with developing a local business model involving the reward points program. I am affiliated with the state's largest chiropractic association and for years one of our yearly convention has been held at Mohegan Sun in Connecticut. Our association has kept going back there because of many factors. Friendly courteous staff, cleanliness, and efficiency at making sure the convention ran smoothly are just a few to comment on. This experience is not unique to that Mohegan Sun. I've also visited and stayed at the Mohegan Sun in Pennsylvania. Courteous, knowledgeable, happy to work there staff. Clean efficient facility. This past weekend we stayed there to celebrate a friend's report of being cancer free. Our friend made reservations for lunch with Ruth Chris Steakhouse and was asked if there was a special occasion and she mentioned her report. Upon bringing out our dessert order, our waiters also brought out, unknown to all of us at the table, a congratulation dessert arrangement with our friend's name on it. A very nice touch.

Kevin Law: Jorge we're out of time.

Jorge Delgado: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you very much.

Jorge Delgado: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. William Cirone.

William Cirone: Good morning gentlemen I would like to recede my time to my wife Joan Cirone who's scheduled at two o'clock.

Kevin Law: Sure.

William Cirone: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Hi Joan.

Joan Cirone: Hi, how are you? Thank you all for your time and attention this morning. We are thirty five year residents of the greater Tuxedo area. And the best that actually, that could have ever have happened to the Tuxedo Sterling Forest area is that the developer Genting America chose this incredible location for their proposed resort casino. The fact of the matter is that Tuxedo is not what it used to be, regardless of what you've heard so far this morning. Taxes have skyrocketed over the years and residents cannot afford to revitalize the town, its schools, and all of the infrastructure that has suffered greatly because of lack of tax revenue. The fact that a

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world class resort along with the vision that Genting has to revitalize the area is a once in a lifetime opportunity to many of us. Times change and Sterling Forest Resort will greatly aid the town of Tuxedo, its neighboring communities, and all of Hudson Valley in their quest for financial stability in the not so distant future.

Kevin Law: Joan, can I just interrupt you for a sec?

Joan Cirone: Sure.

Kevin Law: Hey folks, take the conversations in the back outside. Show respect for your neighbors so we can hear their views. Thank you.

Joan Cirone: Thank you very much. The building of this project, by the way, will not take years to achieve and it will achieve the financial stability for the region much faster than any of the other projects. I could expound on all of the proposed resort amenities, however that is not the point to emphasize today. What I will mention for example that right around the corner is a corporate industrial area that used to house major corporations like IBM and it has become somewhat abandoned over the years with much tax revenue being lost. Imagine the creation of the resort casino and the generation of renewed interest from corporations that now do have a reason to locate back in the Sterling Forest Tuxedo area again. A world class resort for their clientele to enjoy and have nearby commendations is something that the area has never had. What we have seen in the greater Tuxedo area truthfully is a slow deterioration of commerce, stores closing, and some of them just hanging on hoping for the positive change that the resort will bring to the community. Residents who are considering leaving the area are actually waiting to see what the outcome of is of the licensure that is being considered. Many many need tax relief to maintain and keep their homes. Many people do not average the one hundred and two thousand dollar annual income that was reported today. The area does not need any more empty homes and foreclosures than it already has. It also is in dire need of Exit 15B off the throughway. So many towns in that general area are landlocked and by building this artery it will encourage people to really consider living in the greater Tuxedo area again. I have occasion to listen and talk to realtors almost every day. I am in property management and the realtors in the area are absolutely, positively all in favor of this project going forth. The real estate has stagnated terribly and many of property values in the area have also gone down. The irony of it all is Tuxedo is worth the effort to revitalize. It will not take years and years to do so. It is a prime location for people to travel from New York City, Westchester, northern New Jersey, and Fairfield County. Today people want convenience with amenities and a unique hospitality experience that Sterling Forest Resort will offer. It is important also to say that thirty million dollars has been pledged for parklands and as well as to address any concerns for land preservation. We thank Genting for doing that as well. Genting has planned a wonderful destination resort complete with family entertainment. It is the way of the future and the proximity to so many metropolitan areas will bring people to the resort casino and bring out locale, the county and state, a tremendous amount of revenue to allocate for many many years to come. I thank you very much.

Kevin Law: Thank you Joan. Next up is Anthony Scanderi. Hi Anthony.

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Anthony Scanderiato: You said my name pretty good.

Kevin Law: Thank you. You have five minutes pal.

Anthony Scanderiato: Sterling Forest has empty buildings. Come to Liberty. Liberty is like the, is like the movie Car's Radiator Springs. We are the Radiator Springs of Sullivan County. My name is Anthony Scanderiato. I am a retired New York City police officer and I'm living in Liberty and I'm going to be educated on Sullivan County \_\_\_\_\_ casinos over Orange County.

Kevin Law: Lift up the mic a little bit.

Anthony Scanderiato: Sorry.

Kevin Law: Yeah perfect.

Gaming Commission Member: You're welcome to take it off there and have a seat.

Anthony Scanderiato: I'll stand its ok. I'm going to educate you, you said you need to be educated; I'm going to educate you and tell you why Sullivan County needs casinos over Orange County. I have my top ten reasons why. Number ten: seventy five percent of Sullivan County voted for casinos while almost fifty percent of Orange County voted against it. Liberty Town was as high as eighty five percent. Number nine: Sullivan County has made organized pro-casino groups while Orange County has many anti-casino groups as well as many lawsuits and many on the way. Number eight: Sullivan County sites are over a thousand acres, with golf courses and water parks. Just like the Turning Stone Casino, which is over two hundred and fifty miles from New York City and is booming and very successful. Orange County sites are posted stamp properties with a hotel parking lot just like Atlantic City which we all know is a losing proposition. Number seven: both Sullivan County sites are shovel ready, while none of sites in Orange County have completed the seeker paperwork. That paperwork takes years to complete. Number six: Sullivan County properties are in upstate New York depressed areas which the law is intended for. Orange County sites are all New York City wealthy suburbs, including the Newburgh site which is the town of Newburgh. Not the city. Don't let them fool you. Number five: Sullivan County sites are in formerly well-known resorts that are vein for destination resorts with a casino. All the Orange County sites were never resorts and should never be. Number four: Sullivan County sites are what Senator Bonic and Senator Putlow helped craft the legislation for. Both the senator and the assemblyman said that Orange County was only part of the region for profit sharing, not for casino. They never attended for it to be a casino. It's ridiculous that they would accept applications to be a casino. Number four: number three sorry. Sullivan County was the only county to lose jobs this year while Orange County was in the top five with the biggest growth and might I add Ulster County was ranked number two in New York State job growth. Do they need a casino? I don't think so. Number two: Sullivan County sites are formal destinations for families from New York and bordering states. Orange County sites are more interested in high rollers from Asia and other countries. They don't even care about New York.

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They don't even care about the surrounding area. They want people from out of the country. That's American? I don't think so. And the number one reason why you should pick Sullivan County: they've been waiting for over forty years and Orange County has been waiting zero! That's what I have to say about that.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Thank you Anthony. Ok. Thank you Anthony. We are now going back to our list of those who signed up today. Shirley Ann Felder.

Shirley Ann Felder: Good morning gentleman.

Kevin Law: Hi.

Shirley Ann Felder: I am a forty eight year old mother, sister, ex-wife, aunt, and yes a grandmother and a twenty one year old business owner. I have sat on nine different boards in my community and one state board. I've had a business in Saint Thomas, Saint Croix, and the Dominican Republic. I tell you that because I don't want you to confuse me for just some ma and pa business owner. I have done in the last five years of the worst economic turndown, eleven million dollars, in Sullivan County gross revenue. My mother was a maid, a bartender, and a nurse. I spent most of my young life embarrassed by that fact. She was a maid for at least eight of the hotels in the Sullivan County area and passed away at the age of thirty nine when I was eleven. So I had to leave my beautiful community and I returned ten years later. I remembered the ski lodges where one of my brothers worked as a breakfast chef. My other two brothers were bakers in two other restaurants and hotels. My other drove for an egg company and he also drove cement truck. If you are following me I am talking about opportunities. I'm talking about dreams and hopes. I'm talking about memories. But again I'm gonna remind you we're talking about options. At this moment we have none. Well we kind of do and I'll tell you about that in a minute. My dad drove garbage truck and a concrete truck. He couldn't even read or write and he had options. My parents came here in the sixties. They answered an ad, my mom to be a nanny in Gramsville and my dad to be a jockey in Yonkers. Fast forward nineteen eighty seven, I come back home. I'm six months pregnant and I remember that there was a place of beauty and options. I had no clue about ten years later the condition of my home, my town that I loved and was forced to be moved from. I needed help medically and I couldn't afford to have this child. I went to what we call today DSS. O-m-g how degrading, depressing. And I could use other colorful words but I won't use that here today. I asked how do I pay it back because I didn't know the process. They laughed at me and they offered me other benefits of being depressed and having no options. I talk about this and I continue to ask them "how do I do this?" And as long as I kept telling them this doom and gloom story. They just kept adding to my benefits. I tell you this because as a twenty one year old college dropout and a single mom, I worked as receptionist at a lumber yard, a hotel front desk clerk, a switchboard operator on weekends, and yeah with the Oak Gables. And I also was a cashier at a ski lodge when I came back home. Are you with me? I even had options eleven years later. Are you with me on those options? Because they did not allow me to be comfortable with a hand out. They made me comfortable with a hand up. And today the young parents today do not have a hand up. They just keep giving a hand out and we keep talking about them. How about help them. I don't care about your numbers and statistics

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today. I care about people. I don't care about who's on the take or the pay. I care about people and helping parents become good parents again and understanding what hard working parents is about. They have no options. Why you ask? Desperate people have nothing to lose. I had to report to the state police that copper was brought into my business by old and young. That's how they're feeding their families now, stealing copper. That's how they're putting heat in their homes now. My friends, yes all this stuff happened before but now we have solutions. We have the advantage over all others. We now know what is like to have traffic, activity, several police officers, we had them on motorcycles and even horses before. The other factors that give us the advantage is who the players are. Let's face it. If we don't have to reinvent the wheel while others are looking for spokes and rims and etcetera, all we need is the oil to make it smoother. We have experienced people with skinning the game. These people have proven they know what they're doing and have made impacts in a positive way in other areas. They're the crème de la crème as the two gentlemen that were head of the growth and the comeback of the originally Catskill Mountains. They were born into recreation and destination. They are second and third generation hospitality specialists. The other group has been with us at Monticello Raceway since nineteen fifty eight. When my dad left Yonkers to be closer with my mom as a nanny he came to the racetrack and he worked there. These people have to also worry about Google. Their grandchildren will Google them and see what they said they were gonna do and they're gonna have to put their money where their mouth is. I don't know about you, but I'm not lying to my grandkids and my kids but other people they have to lie about it because they don't know what it takes.

Kevin Law: Alright time's up.

Shirley Ann Felder: One last thing. Governor Cuomo flew in and he said "Sullivan County, we did it!" He didn't fly into Middletown or Ulster County. He flew into one of our destination sites Bethel Woods. Why? Because we're ready.

Paul Francis: Shirley. Shirley. Which of the projects to you prefer?

Shirley Ann Felder: I would favor Mohegan First, and then definitely other. But we need two, it's not an option we need two and one thing we've proven is that we know how to work well with ourselves and others.

Paul Francis: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Bill Laforet.

Bill Laforet: Good morning. I'm here not to discourage your casinos but to bring light attention that faces us in Mahwah, New Jersey. I'm the mayor of Mahwah, New Jersey which is not too far away from here and I call it the choke point of all the infrastructure road system. Over the last three years we had very productive meetings with the New York State DOT, Tap Seabridge Authority, New Jersey DOT to all attempt to address the issue of traffic. On Thursdays and Fridays Mahwah and surrounding communities of Bergen County are crippled and in Rockland

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County suffer New York, crippled by traffic. Those people desiring to get onto the New York State Thruway. I suggest that on the weekends that your casinos will be open, this will only multiply. You'll basically put the Atlantic City Expressway on this intersection of Route 17 to 87 into New York State Thruway. I will tell you this that while you consider this growth, which is a positive thing for New York, you cannot roll the dice until you get through Mahwah and I would encourage you to address the infrastructure of roads that'll deliver these affluent people from Bergen County, New York City, all the people have discussed here today, they will not get there unless you improve the road system. So I'm calling on October fifteenth in Mahwah, New Jersey, we will hold a traffic conference. We'll invite all of the DOTs that have been so productive before and anyone interested in solving this problem. I don't think you can address the growth until you address the traffic. On a separate note, we also have the Ramapo River. The Ramapo Aquifer feeds water to millions of people in New Jersey. By pulling down the aquifer and transferring the waste to the Hudson River, you are gonna suck down the Ramapo River and compromise our ability and our production of wells based all along from all the way from Tallman all the way to the New York Basin. So while you're in your journey consider those two things most important to us and the biggest standing issue is traffic. Now I don't hear anyone discussing traffic to the benefit of this development. Economic development is great but it's crippling the economic growth in Bergen County and in Rocklin County and it's not being mentioned in this conference. So I thank you and I invite you all to come October fifteenth in Mahwah Town Hall. We'll have a conference. We'll sit around. We'll talk about it. And let us at least shed some light on a problem that's gonna stifle your ability to have these casinos successful. Thank you very much.

Kevin Law: Thank you mayor. Susanne Williams.

Susanne Williams: My name is Susanne Williams and I have lived in Tuxedo park since nineteen ninety one. I have come here today to speak in \_\_\_\_\_ opposition to the proposed Sterling Forest Casino. A development that I and many other people in Tuxedo, almost certainly the large majority, feel would be a disaster for our town, for the surrounding communities, and for the beauties of nature that surround us and that the states of New York and New Jersey have so wisely acted to protect in creating the Sterling Forest State Park. When you tote up all the reasons why the idea of building such a huge and disruptive casino in a town that has very little economic need of it. In a place right above a critical watershed of Orange and Rockland Counties, and Northern New Jersey. And projected to attract so many visitors a year that it will inevitably overwhelm our municipal resources and clog our roads with traffic at all hours of the night and day. You have to question the competence and integrity of the local officials who have allowed this process to proceed as far as it has. Other speakers here will surely address in detail the ecological and social damage the Sterling Forest Resort Casino would cause. Still others will discuss the shaky and untenable legal basis in which the developer plans to proceed with the new thruway interchange 15B which the Palisades Interstate Park Commission has firmly said cannot be accessed via their land or roads. This last development alone would seem to rule out the casino for any further consideration. But I wanna register here my objection to the arrogant and patentry untransparent way Genting has dealt with the Town of Tuxedo and its residents. We know that they had secret meetings with our town board before the casino project was sprung on

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us in the third week of April of this year. With hardly any time at all for public comment and debate before the hosting agreement was to be voted up or down. A representative of Genting was allowed to speak at length at the town meeting where that vote took place on May seventeenth, despite the fact that there had been ample time for Genting to make their case at other town meetings. And also at that meeting, when legal questions were asked concerning the hosting agreement, our town attorney shockingly deferred to that Genting representative. And even (microphone breaks) more shockingly was seen in the company of Genting representative.

Kevin Law: Time out.

Bill Thompson: Hold on one second.

Kevin Law: Susanne hold on one sec. We're hearing you but the folks in the back aren't.

Bill Thompson: Yeah we'll add to your time don't worry.

Susanne Williams: Ok thank you.

Bill Thompson: Tell you what, take this one. Oh you can't. Well that reaches her. If you can. If you can't.

Kevin Law: Now move the podium up. We got battery?

Susanne Williams: I can hold, I can you know stand here. Thank you Mr. Thompson. I'm gonna start that sentence over. A representative of Genting allowed to speak at length at the town meeting where that vote took place on May seventeenth despite the fact that there had already been ample time for Genting to make their case at other town meetings. And also at that meeting when legal questions concerning the hosting agreement were raised, our town attorney shockingly deferred to that Genting representative. And even more shockingly was seen in the company of Genting representatives at a local restaurant following the meeting. If that doesn't constitute malfeasance please tell me what does. Things like this give us ample reason to believe that the big decisions are being made behind closed doors and that our town officials are either overwhelmed by the complexity of the issues the proposed casino raises and/or are unduly under the influence of a powerful corporation with a far too much money and too many favors to spread around to reach their objectives. Genting wants us and you to regard them as community partners but they are not at all shy about raising the threat of some other undesirable entity buying the site of the casino if they do not get their way. Some partners. The only language that Genting is truly fluent in is the language of money. Whenever some objection to their plans is raised their immediate response is to throw money at the problem. They have attempted to buy off any local opposition by gifting three hundred and forty thousand to our school system which they have identified as a point of vulnerability. And further by offering forty six and a half million to the Town of Tuxedo if a casino license is awarded to them. Their additional offer of ten million dollars to the Village of Tuxedo Park came with a gag order requiring members of the village town board not to speak out against any aspect of a resort

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casino. Apparently, you make a large enough to buy public support and do it in the open, then don't expect anyone to call it what it clearly is, corruption. And when an uncorrupt able entity like the Palisades Interstate Park Commission made the right decision to protect Sterling Forest Park State Park and Harriman State Park, Genting representatives reportedly sputtered in anger and disbelief that their land swap offer to the commission couldn't buy its vote. The idea that democracy means that people in institutions cannot simple be bought off appears entirely foreign to the Genting world view. This casino is a development of the actual residents of the Tuxedo never want to see built. There are towns way north of Tuxedo. Many of which we have heard about this morning that are begging to have a casino. Towns that the proposition that was voted on last November were intended to benefit. Let them have their casinos and let us residents who cherish Tuxedo, have our town and our piece of mind back. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Paul Goldstein. Paul.

Paul Goldstein: Yes hi. My name is Paul Goldstein. I'm from Harvard Touch Payment Solutions. We're a credit and debit card processor. I'm a specialist in the hospitality industry. We put in customized point of sale systems into businesses throughout the country. Now I have no relationship, no financial relationship with any of the casinos here today. But I do have a very long-term relationship with Sullivan County where I am a resident. I've been in Sullivan County Catskills and I've seen it in its hay day. I've seen it when it was the premier vacation spot not just in the east coast but across the country. I've seen what millions of people flock to Sullivan County hotels to see the likes of Milton Burrell, Buddy Hacket, and Joan Rivers. Where they came to watch Mohammad Ali train on a regular basis in these hotels. I grew up working in the Sullivan County hotels. I worked in the Laurels. I worked in Stevens Burrell and I worked at the Concord, the future location of Mohegan Sun. I saw the Sullivan County Catskills in its prime and I also watched it in its decline. I saw when tourism in the county gave way to unemployment, to welfare, to food stamps, and other despair. We are the county that pushed for gambling, not last month, not last year, but for forty and fifty years. We're the place that it belongs. Instead of economic development, what did Sullivan County get? We got poverty and one of the highest levels of suicide in the state. Today we have an opportunity to change that. We can take the residents of Sullivan County off the state welfare roles. We can give them jobs and we can give them a state of well-being. We have a team of people in place with these casinos that have a leveled expertise second to none. They have a comprehensive county-wide plan, not just for the site, not just for the one location, but one that's unlike any other plan for the Catskill Hudson Valley region. With a proven track record of people with twenty years of expertise and the highest grossing gaming floor in the entire western hemisphere and a homegrown team of people with generations of Catskill Hotel experience. And that's the Mohegan Sun group. Not just for plans for the hundred and thirty acre Concord facility, they have plans to redevelop Grossinger's site and to turn the Town of Monticello from the ghost town it is to the thriving town it used to be. The partnership and out, they have a partnership program which will cut across and bring businesses business throughout the county. And my company Harvard Touch will make a commitment to Sullivan County where we will provide free point of sale computer systems to businesses and restaurants saving them upfront income of somewhere between five thousand, sixty thousand dollars per location. And we will save the businesses millions of dollars

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and invest in Sullivan County. What is important is that we are the place of gaming, we are not a Johnny come lately county. Sullivan County is where gaming belongs. Sullivan County is the home where the hotel and hospitality industry belongs. As we approach this cold winter, and as you make a decision in this winter, you really need to keep all of that in mind. You need to let the sun shine over Sullivan County. Let the Mohegan Sun shine over Sullivan County residents and bring the county, the unemployment rate down and bring the income back to the home of Sullivan County.

Kevin Law: Thank you Paul. Greg Distefano. Did he? Is that Greg? No, you're not Greg. Are you Greg? No.

Lois Distefano: I'm not Greg but there was a change at the desk, I don't know if it came through. I'm Louis. I'm Lois Distefano.

Kevin Law: Oh.

Lois Distefano: Hello there.

Kevin Law: Very good. Hi Lois you've got five minutes or less.

Lois Distefano: Hi. Ok. Good morning and thank you for your service. My name is Lois Distefano and I've been a Sullivan County resident all my life. I have a twenty year career in hospitality. I was certified by the Career Industry Council, I mean the Convention Industry Council and I am a certified meeting professional. I'm an active member of Professional Women of Sullivan County and the Mid-Hudson Valley Society of Human Resource Managers. I got involved with the Mohegan Sun project and I am here to speak to support Mohegan Sun. Esteemed council, let's take a little look back at the Catskills and why they deteriorated. Prior to legalized gaming in Atlantic City, the Catskills had a vibrant mid-week business mostly comprised of senior citizen groups. A resort could easily host twenty bustles of seniors from the Sunday to Friday. The senior market provided a cash flow and it kept the employees working and it allowed the resorts to utilize a profit from weekend business. When Atlantic City casinos opened our senior market found a new playing ground. They saw less and less bustles, we saw less and less bustles until they were virtually non-existent. This resulted in the hotels having to operate a year round business on just a fifty two weekends a year. That is impossible. With that said the plight for gaming became stronger and stronger. We gave notice that many times that our area would undeniably deteriorate without a gaming catalyst. Forty plus years of seeking legislation. Forty plus years of hope, hope. Forty plus years of trusting that the right thing would happen for the Catskills. Now we're here again today standing before you to confirm the plight of the Catskills and the state of our case with hope and with trust in you. How many times are the Catskills going to be denied a right for a casino? Haven't we paid the price? Haven't we paid our dues? Today we have the right entity to get us back on track and that's Mohegan Sun. Mohegan Sun with the highest gaming revenue of any casino in the western hemisphere. Mohegan Sun with five hundred and fifty thousand momentum members within a hundred mile radius of Monticello. Mohegan Sun with a database that will draw visitors from other states. Mohegan Sun

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as a manager resorts in Atlantic City, is now seeing a profit where others are falling and closing. Mohegan Sun knows how to do business because they have exceptional leadership and they understand management. Mohegan Sun is ready today. I invite you to visit their facilities to see how a first class operation is run. Then compare it to the others. I'm sure you will agree that they are number one. Mitchell Ettice, the one with Cliff Earlic, are leaders in the hospitality and gaming field and they got there with roots from the Catskills. Mohegan Sun is investing in the community to promote the excitement of zip-lining. We're home to white water rafting, multitudes of lakes, distilleries and wineries, trout fishing, and gulf courses gulf courses gulf courses. It's all here. Under the guidance of Mohegan Sun the Catskills will be the greatest travel destination that once was. Mohegan is the choice, it's the best choice. We are a country we are a county that's just waiting to come alive. It's our destiny. Mohegan Sun has real solutions for the Catskills. They are the experts of growing business for the good of all. The outward facing marketing program from Mohegan Sun will drive existing business to new heights and will encourage the creation of new businesses. This will happen quickly and within eighteen months you're gonna see us in motion. It's time that New York gets ahead of the casino phenomenon, and that will happen with Mohegan Sun and the Catskills. We will use our Catskill history that's known worldwide. We are the only ones with a bagel festival. Dirty Dancing was all about us. We are home to the nineteen sixty nine Woodstock Festival. Everyone in the world, gentlemen, the world can recognize the Sullivan County Catskills. Mohegan Sun plus the Catskills is a sure thing. We have the desire. We have the drive. We stayed because we had faith that our voice would one day be heard. Please don't let us down again. Please don't let this be another time that casinos are taken away from us. We deserve it more than any other. So here's your best choice. Choose Mohegan Sun Casino that has proven success in different markets and then let's add it to the Adelaar project and the racino operators and we will have untold synergy. Please let's bring back the renowned Sullivan County Catskills. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Good job. Thank you Lois.

Lois Distefano: Gentlemen if I can ask you a question. There was a statement made earlier that was incorrect. How does one go about addressing that?

Kevin Law: Good question because it relates everybody. People can submit written comments if you didn't get all your points in either because the time got cut short or if you wanna rebut something that somebody said you can submit written comments.

Lois Distefano: You can submit, ok thank you very much. I appreciate it.

Paul Francis: You would be surprised at how many of those we pick up.

Lois Distefano: I'm sure. I trust you.

Kevin Law: Thank you Lois. Thank you Lois. Next up is Charlie Barbuti. Hey Charlie. I know you're gonna be under five minutes.

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Charlie Barbuti: I'm Charlie Barbuti and I'm the Supervisor of the Town of Liberty and I was born in Liberty and in business there for over forty years.

Kevin Law: Lift up the mic.

Charlie Barbuti: I raised my. I'm Charlie Barbuti, Liberty Supervisor. Born in Liberty, business there for over forty years. Raised my family there and I want to thank this election board for listening to the comments today. I thought I had a good speech until I heard my Liberty resident Tony give me the top ten reasons for opening in Sullivan County.

Kevin Law: That's gonna be tough to beat.

Charlie Barbuti: But nothing like that. My purpose here to speak in favor of the two casino applications in Sullivan County. The Adelaar Montreign Resort and the Mohegan Sun Destination Resort Casino. I've been reading in the papers and I think you guys have identified it pretty well that the decision comes down to is it about raising the revenue for New York State or it is about the economic bellament picture for counties like Sullivan that have been left behind by the current, we wanna call it recovery. If the answer to the first question is yes then I think that as Eileen Gunther, our assembly woman said, they should have put it in a place where they could actually get the best which would be in Manhattan or somewhere like that. But they didn't. The legislation said that it should go to some places like Sullivan County. So if your answer to the second question is yes, do we put these where we need the economic development, your answer has to be Sullivan County is the place. You have heard repeatedly that one in Orange County and one in Sullivan County, well the numbers won't work for the Sullivan County folks. They have scaled down plans for that. They won't be the destination that we are talking about. You have heard about the economic conditions in Sullivan County so I won't dwell on them other than to say that every day you read in the paper more and more about it and I'll just leave the facts that are there. We are in need of something like this. As a town supervisor I'm faced with providing municipal services to my constituents at a level that they appreciate with a dwindling tax base and what my folks need are jobs. That's what we need in the Town of Liberty and in Sullivan County. As a store owner I'm faced with trying to show a profit with an aging population base and customers trying to make ends meet with ever-rising taxes, energy costs, and low wages. They need jobs. My kids needed jobs before they left the areas. As a father my wife and I have watched our three daughters who really appreciated being raised in a small town, have to leave the area in pursuit of a good job. They grew up in an old fashioned neighborhood playing with friends, attending a multicultural school in a rural setting where picture postcards greet you everywhere. And that's my Town of Liberty. Anywhere you look it's a picture. My children were raised with both sets of grandparents in town, attending every one of their milestones. I'm that far away grandpa that sees them on Facebook and Face time or whatever they call it and tries my best to be a part of their lives. I'm also on the IDA in Sullivan County so I understand that major development decisions in America are made by the money folks.

(Announcement over intercom systems)

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Kevin Law: Sorry Charlie.

Charlie Barbuti: Early in this process Muss Development Corporation and Foxwoods Casinos had an application planned for my town of Liberty and those spreadsheets and computer models showed it was very difficult raise the funding that they needed to complete that project. Money flows to areas where there is the best return on investment, that's the history of this. Businesses as usual. Business as usual has passed Sullivan County by. We need a different formula going forward. Our formula you don't need an equation for it, I mean a computer model to figure it out, we have only seventy thousand residents for Sullivan County of twenty percent the poverty rate or better, better than half our kids are in free and reduced lunch programs. That equals no economic development. That's our formula. I hope you guys saw the recent show on Roosevelt in the last week on public service and

Kevin Law: Yeah it's great.

Charlie Barbuti: public TV. It's funny because I was working on speech and up comes this quote and I says "man there is my speech. Right there." Roosevelt in judging his program, which is right up the road here.

Kevin Law: Right.

Charlie Barbuti: He said the test of his programs of his new deal programs was not whether we add more abundance to those who have much, it is whether we provide enough to those who have too little. And if you think about that, I'm gonna repeat it because it's the crust of the whole theme. The test of this, this program that we're going through now, is not whether we have more abundance to those have much, it is whether we provide enough to those who have too little. In the end a decision to award two casinos in Sullivan County and Thompson at the site of the former Concord Hotel should be made. Not just because we deserve it, but we do. Not just because we earned it, but we did. And not just because our Sullivan County applicants have the best experience and the best plans to be a regional economic force, but you know they do. And not just because we truly need it, because we absolutely do. So I hope you will make your decision to award two casino licenses to the destination resort Adelaar, Montreign, and the proven casino leader Mohegan Sun because it's the right thing to do.

Kevin Law: Great. Thank you. Thank you supervisor. Next up is Orange County executive Steve Newhouse. County executive.

Steve Newhouse: Good morning still. It's a honor to be here as the Orange County executive. Exciting times for our region and I'd like to really address a couple of the issues that I think are really most critical as you make your decision as the Gaming Commission makes its decision. Tax breaks, one of the most fundamental issues in our region and this state is how many tax breaks are given out to businesses or people not paying their fair share. Not one casino in Orange County out of all six is taxing any tax breaks. As a matter of fact we introduced a law that was passed by the legislature that would forbid that. It goes against the spirit of this gaming

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legislation. Not one casino. So every school district that Orange County has, if we are chosen to have one or two of these casinos, will be getting their fair share. So that leads to another question to me. What is the long term sustainability for an operation that needs massive tax breaks just to get off the ground? Because one of the fundamental thing that comes in the future is in the next seven, eight, nine years New York City could be up and running with their own casinos. How are you gonna be able to survive as a casino if you need massive tax breaks? And the other thing is what's the feed stock. One of the things in Orange County that we are happy to say that we have is the Woodbury Commons. Thirteen million people a year, and they're doing a major remodeling because they know it's gonna continue to grow. That is why you see, in my opinion, the major interest of casino entities putting applications in in Orange County. That is almost a guaranteed feedstock as we go through the future and with the five borrows maybe being online with casinos. With metal lands now toying with the idea of opening a casino. We need to look about long term sustainability and the other aspect I wanted to bring into this is two other two other one two on their two other major important issues is poverty. We have more people unemployed in the region than any of our other competitors do, number wise. Not percentage wise. We have three hundred seventy five thousand people in Orange County. We have a lot more people. Eight thousand compared to the other people in our region. We have more people living below the poverty level than the other people competing. City of Newburgh, I saw an article today where one of the senators said that you know we have places that are that have poverty and need help. City of Newburgh has seen decade after decade a decline. They are at a top ten most dangerous place ranked by the FBI. They need help. The six casinos being proposed in Orange County, any one of them can aid to helping City of Newburgh get some dollars that are much needed. The last thing that I wanted to mention is project labor agreements. Part of this law said that project labor agreements, union labor, people that are paying a decent wage, have to be working on these jobs. All six of Orange County's casinos have a project labor agreement signed. That's not true for at least one other applicant out there. What does that tell you? These things raise to me major flags as a county executive, as a government leader. When you have people applying for massive tax breaks just to get off the ground. When you have people saying "I'm really there for the union worker but I'm not gonna sign an agreement til after the fact." So at the end of the day I look at long-term sustainability. I look at people going right out of the gate saying they need all these different injections of help on this different level. At the end of the day who is going to deliver the most jobs, the most tax revenue, the most benefit for the people of not only Orange County or Sullivan County or Ulster County but the region and the state as a whole. So that's where I stand as a county executive. I appreciate your time. I know you have a long day and I thank you for fitting me in your schedule today. Thank you gentlemen.

Kevin Law: Good. Thank you county executive. Like your tie too. Folks just a little bit of process so you can plan your own schedules as well. We're gonna go through another round of people who pre-registered then at twelve twenty five we're gonna take a thirty minute lunch break and then convene at one o'clock again. And so far I know there's a lot of emotion in the room. A lot of healthy competition in the room. Some opposition in the room. Some support in the room. We appreciate the respect you're showing one another so far and to us and we thank you for that and let's hope it continues. Ok. Thank you. So let's start with Alex Sharalambedus. Close? Bad? Sharalambedus?

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Alex Sharalambedus: Close.

Kevin Law: Stick with the first one?

Alex Sharalambedus: Alex is fine.

Kevin Law: Ok. How about Charles?

Alex Sharalambedus: Yeah that'll work too.

Kevin Law: There we go. Thanks Charles.

Alex Sharalambedus: Cool. Good afternoon board members. Ladies and gentlemen thank you for allowing me to speak here today. My name is Alex Sharalambedus. I'm the chief operating officer for Live Technology. A technology company out of Tuxedo, New York. When we first moved to the New York area we set up operations and purchased in Westchester County. It seemed like the perfect location. We had access to the city. Great schools. Beautiful properties. At the time we were and still are a growing company. And we very quickly realized that property prices, taxes in the area, were prohibiting our people from being able to buy homes. They were renting exorbitant prices or living over an hour away from us in other counties. Which is ridiculous considering we're in the suburbs, not in New York City. We made the decision to move to Orange County and as it had all the same qualities as Westchester with one major difference, people will be able to afford homes and have a better standard of living. Again, perfect location. Hour from the city. It's beautiful and we were able to invest in a great property there. Surprisingly, the infrastructure is actually pretty good in the area as well. Since we've moved there we've involved ourselves in the community, volunteering our time, people, and technology wherever possible. Unfortunately over the years we have watched as taxes have soared almost creating the same prohibitive levels we saw in Westchester County. We've watched small businesses open in the community and seen half them close down. One after the other. We've watched landmarks like the Red Apple Race slowly decay into derelict husks. Mere shadows of their former selves in their hay day. We've seen exciting investments in the area such as the Tuxedo Inn being taken over and re-done. Only to see the tenant's businesses fail and the school fronts empty for two years now. It's an all too common story in the area and you just need to drive down seventeen to see it. The Sterling Forest Resort will bring new life into the community and bring with it much needed funds, tax dollars, and jobs. This will not only benefit the Town of Tuxedo but also surrounding towns Green lake, Monroe, and surrounding counties. It'll provide the sorely needed jobs in an economy that's stumbling for its recovery. Tuxedo Ridge Ski Resort, The Renaissance Fair, the defunct buildings opposite them will get a much needed face lift and become a destination of choice bringing even more commerce to the area, helping small business owners who are still managing to survive despite the already tough conditions. Finally as I mentioned earlier the reason, one of the reasons we moved up to Tuxedo was because it's beautiful. Genting's commitment to pour thirty million dollars into the parks and reservations in the areas means they feel the same way. It's not just a one offer basement;

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it's an annual commitment so it's ongoing. Last they've committed twenty five million dollars to water, the water reclamation project. Take a decaying area and making it beautiful. The attention to detail they have paid to area, to the environmental impact every facet of the resort tells the same story. So in short, we support the Sterling Forest Resort in use of. We hope it gets the go ahead to proceed. Thank you very much for your time. Thank you for this.

Kevin Law: Thank you Alex. Walter Grigliano. Who'd you switch with?

Ira Steingart: The next four speakers. We should have, we cleared it up front and I'm Ira Steingart.

Kevin Law: I'm sorry who are you?

Ira Steingart: I'm Ira Steingart.

Kevin Smith: I got you.

Ira Steingart: Ok.

Kevin Smith: Ok you're switching with Walter?

Ira Steingart: We're switching the next four are changing. We're all together.

Kevin Law: Ok, is Mark Baez here too?

Ira Steingart: Yes, all four are here.

Kevin Law: And then, Roberta?

Ira Steingart: Yes.

Kevin Law: Oh so you're sorta doing a team?

Ira Steingart: Yes.

Paul Francis: Splitting time? Splitting time.

Ira Steingart: We all have five minutes I realize.

Kevin Law: Yeah I see you've all registered so ok we're gonna hold you to it.

Ira Steingart: Ok I'll do my best. Chairman Law thank you for the opportunity and the members of the Gaming Facility Location Board so that my comments are part of the record and are considered for determining the location for class three casinos. I'd like to give you some

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background about myself so you better underappreciate why I stand before you today. My name is Ira Steingart. I'm a Sullivan County legislator and district aid and I serve as a chair for the Community and Economic Development Committee. I'm also a chair of the County of Sullivan IDA and a partner in Steingart Printing, a four generation printing company in Fallsburg for almost a hundred years. I spent countless hours pondering what I could say that would help you conclude that two casinos in Sullivan County is not only in the best interest of the state but also meets the truest intent of the enabling legislation. My first thoughts were to share statistics about our need. The revenue stream that the two casinos in Sullivan County would provide to the state and how putting a casino in Orange County will hurt the harnessed industry. While all that is true, that is not what you need to hear from me today. You've sat through the hours of presentations. You've poured over the thousands of document pages. I did too. So let me tell you my story because it's representative of what happened to the people of Sullivan County. My great grandfather started our printing company around nineteen twenty and the resort industry counted for more than ninety percent of our sales. I started working part time in the business as a teenager and full time after college in nineteen seventy five. I've always loved the business and my fondest memories are working alongside my dad. It would bring me great joy if my sixteen year old son Zack was working side by side with me right now. Unfortunately that simply can't happen because our county's economic condition. Since the decline of the resort industry we've lost one of our biggest assets, our youth. For decades our best and brightest have left Sullivan County simply because they don't have a choice. People go where the jobs are. The Hank Greenberg's and the Ben Rochettes of the world, both born in Sullivan County, have moved on. If you would have told me when I graduated college in nineteen seventy five that The Concord, Grossinger's, Brown's, Pine's, Brickman's, Stevensville, Raleigh, and Windsor would be out of business I would tell you that you're crazy. But look at the stack of postcard that my family printed. All resorts out of business. I've struggled to survive hoping Sullivan County would rebound. But it hasn't. We've been trying to get casinos here for nearly fifty years. Up until now we have not been successful due to the lack of votes, wealth, and our ability to convince the decision makers. A few years ago I had a choice to make. Leave the area or try to make a difference. That's when I decided to run for the county legislature. Now as Chairmen of the IDA and Economic Development Committee, we're focusing on healthcare, agriculture, and tourism. We've been working with the casino developers for years. We are ready now. No other applicant can be open for business faster. Mohegan Sun already has building permits and Montreign is ready to get theirs. Both have said publicly and will feed off each other. And in combination with Adelaar and additional development of Grossinger's, will create a wonderful destination that will single handedly put the Catskills back on the map. Sullivan County is ready. Our residents want it. Our businesses need it. There are no controversies in Sullivan like our neighbors to the south. We now have our chance and our two Sullivan County applicants are shovel ready and destined to be the economic engine and job creator the state envisioned and intended when passing the enabling legislation. I believe that unless the state awards Sullivan County two casinos at the Concord site, we will remain an economic downspin we've been experienced for decades. In fact if we are not awarded casinos in our county and lose out to the more well to do neighboring counties, our economic conditions will become that much worse and beyond repair. We simply don't have the ability to escape this predicament and two casinos will offer the much needed rooms that our resort industry lost. More importantly, the jobs created will once again bring the

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disposable income to our very poor county. Creating jobs is what this is all about. When you visit our county the area is breathtaking, yet our towns and villages are filled with empty stores. Help us create jobs. We built our economy. Protect the horse racing in our region and let's return the Catskills to the rightful place as a premier resort and destination that it once was and can be again for New Yorkers and around the world. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you Ira. So who's going next? Are we back to, are we doing Walter now?

Ira Steingart: Walter's last.

Kevin Law: Oh Walter's last?

Ira Steingart: Roberta then Mark.

Kevin Law: Ok Roberta.

Roberta Lockwood: I'm right here.

Kevin Law: Ok.

Ira Steingart: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you Ira. Roberta you got five as well.

Roberta Lockwood: Oh dear, you're gonna pressure me. Good afternoon my name is Roberta Byron Lockwood and I'm the proud president of the Sullivan County Visitors Association. Thank you chairman Law and members of the board for allowing me to speak today. We're the tourism promotion agency for the Sullivan County Catskills as well as one of the sixteen convention and visitor bureaus in New York State. Our mission is to promote and support the Sullivan County Catskills natural, historic, cultural, and recreational assets while optimizing our tourism revenue. And of course, our goal is to be the premier multi-season travel destination in New York State once again. Our Sullivan County Catskills has a long rich history of tourism and hospitality. From the nineteen twenties to the mid nineteen sixties, our Sullivan Catskills was home to over five hundred resorts, a thousand union houses, fifty thousand bungalows, at one count of over ten thousand rooms. Visitors enjoyed spectacular entertainment. We hosted a bustling corporate trade with scores of conventions. Our jobs were plentiful. Our economy thrived. Today only one full service resort is operating. And all but only a few quality hotels and B&Bs and lodges. And as you might expect, fewer accommodations result lower revenues. As a day tripper spends fifty percent less than one of our overnight guests. As a conventioning visitor bureau we receive proposals state and national organizations wishing to return to our Sullivan Catskills for conferences and meetings. Unfortunately, most conferences are too large for our existing facilities to bid. We lose millions annually in revenue and sales tax. Living in the Sullivan County Catskills for the past fourteen years of my thirty year New York State tourism career I have witnessed firsthand the hardships of our travel economy. I've also witnessed a

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strength and perseverance of our businesses and residents. The willingness to work together, keep their businesses open, and try to rebuild this dwindling economy we have. The Sullivan Catskills has become a brand. Recognizable for arts, culture, and the scenic beauty of its Delaware River corridor. However without the opportunities the two casinos will provide, I'm saddened to say that I don't think that our struggling businesses will survive. I was fortunate to participate in the study by the state task force on casino gaming in the mid-nineties, and then, identified the Catskills as a successful destination for casino gaming. Resort full-service gambling facilities have served a successful catalyst for travel and tourism development. Our bright future lies in your hands. Montreign and Mohegan Sun have presented ready to marketplace proposals that will provide visitors with experience like no other. No other proposals provide clustering and the potential synergies these two projects offer at the site of the once grand Concord Hotel. No other proposals fulfill the spirit and the intent of this legislation. Our county is economically depressed. It has record unemployment and is desperate need of tourism infrastructure. Locating these full-service four season resort gaming mega complexes at the historic Concord site will inspire the necessary transformational development that the Sullivan Catskills requires. Standalone casinos that are proposed in neighboring Orange will not provide sustainable marketplace. The gaming market is just one piece of economic revitalization. Gamblers want convenience and safe locations close to their home. Travelers on the other hand visit destination resort casinos for the gaming opportunities but are much more interested in an array of experiences from food to entertainment. And that's why what makes sense to us is the proposed Mohegan Sun and Montreign destinations at the Concord. They're so appealing to visitors from across the country and we feel the world. The influx will finally afford Sullivan County Catskills the ability to realize its fair share of the lucrative and highly competitive travel dollar while seizing tremendous marketplace appeal. Forty five years ago the Sullivan County Catskills made history on a small farm in Bethel. Hosting five hundred thousand people for three days of peace loving music at the generation defining nineteen sixty nine Woodstock Festival. Let's make again make history by awarding two resort gambling licenses to the Sullivan Catskills that we endure beyond another forty five years.

Kevin Law: Time's up.

Roberta Lockwood: Got one line?

Kevin Law: One line.

Roberta Lockwood: One line! We're ready to build, recognized Catskills. We are upstate. We are the Catskills. Let's make our loved New York proud.

Kevin Law: Good job.

Roberta Lockwood: Thank you. I tried to get that in. Thank you for.

Kevin Law: Good job. Thank you. Alright Mark Baez. You get one less line.

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Mark Baez: Good afternoon. My name is Mark Baez. I am president and CEO of the Partnership for Economic Development in Sullivan County. Thank you chairman Law and the members of the Gaming Facility Location Board for allowing me to speak to you today. It is no surprise to anyone that Sullivan County has faced extraordinary challenges for decades in attracting economic development invest of a significant scale. The demise or arguably one of the largest tourist economies in the northeast has made the client back tour of a once vibrant economy a daunting challenge. But of course having heard from all the applicants a couple of weeks ago, you know that. You know about size and scale. Gross gaming revenue. Financing and amenities each promises to build. For the next few moments I would like to focus on readiness and impact.

Kevin Law: Mark hold on a sec. Folks again, let's take the conversations in the back outside the room. Respectful of our guest. Thank you.

Mark Baez: Thank you. We all know that casino in Orange County will seriously jeopardize if not prevent a casino from rising in the Sullivan County Catskills. The very region that was a catalyst for the legislation in the first place. We know that statewide polling data conducted this past July that New York voters think that Sullivan County is a better location than Orange County for a resort destination casino. When reading that economic need is the most important factor in siting a casino, fifty five percent of New York voters surveyed prefer Sullivan County compared to just twenty five percent for Orange County. Voters by a wide two to one margin also have a more favorable reaction to a resort casino located in the Catskills compared to other potential Hudson Valley sites in Orange County, Saratoga, or the eastern southern tier region. Clearly the voters knew the intent of the legislation when they passed Proposition 1 last November. We know that proposal locations in Orange County are facing legal challenges that will significantly delay those projects. What benefit does New York State or depressed upstate communities gain from a casino license awarded to an area that will take years to obtain local approval regardless of the financial handouts or promises of the future revenues they make. In contrast, both Sullivan County proposals are shovel ready. Both have been working on their respected proposals for years, not months. And both are in a position to build immediately. If you award a license to the true upstate Sullivan Casino Catskill Resort Destination Project it will be the right choice for New York State, the right choice for the region, and the right choice for the Sullivan County Catskills. Why? Because these projects will positively affect the upstate Catskills region more significantly than anywhere else under consideration. A third party report conducted by Capacity Business Consulting of Orange County, New York compared Sullivan with Orange, Tioga, Ulster, Rensselaer, Albany counties relative to the key legislative objectives. Reports studied the impact wages would have on each of the areas being considered for a license. A copy of the entire study is being submitted to you as part of the public record. The key component of the study, marginal propensity to consume, focuses on the impact of expected new jobs and the impact that the average salaries of casino wage earners will have in areas vying for casino projects. For every employee making the average county wage, that takes a job at the casino average wage, the study finds this: Sullivan County will put seven hundred percent more money, or nine hundred and three dollars per person, into the economy that Orange County at one hundred and twenty two dollars per person and twenty seven percent more money than Ulster County at seven hundred and eight dollars per person. Albany, Rensselaer, Tioga Counties

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exhibit a negative NPC, meaning the average casino salary is lower than the current average wage of their respected counties. Researches also focused on the velocity of money exchange, frequency of circulation within the target counties. The bigger the stimulus in relation to personal income, the more the person will spend in the local economy. So a person getting a raise in income from thirty one thousand to thirty six thousand will spend nine hundred and three dollars. While a person whose income moves from thirty five thousand to thirty six will only spend one hundred and twelve. The bigger the propensity to consume and the higher the velocity of money, the bigger the positive economic impact. The average wages the two resort destination casinos will be paying in the Sullivan County Catskills will have much more of a positive long-term impact than any other area being considered and begun to revitalize the upstate New York Catskills economy. In conclusion, you must seriously consider readiness, speed to market, and long term impact of jobs created in an area that desperately needs them. If New York State's Casino Legislation objective is to stimulate the upstate economy, the nexus of two resort destination casinos in Sullivan County will circulate the most money the fastest and have the biggest impact New York State's economy. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Walter Corigliano.

Walter Corigliano: Chairman Law and members of the board my name is Walter Corigliano. I'm general council to the Sullivan County IDA. The headline in last week's Sunday Times Herald Record read "Which will New York Choose? To revitalize the Catskills or maximize state's revenues?" The underlying news story included a reference to Chairman Law's observation of revitalization of revenue will be the biggest challenge to the location board over the next month. I respectfully submit there is a logical alternative that allows both revitalization of the Catskills and provides the state with significant net revenue from new casinos. How can this be you ask? The key is to grant licenses to the two geographically clustered applications at the site of the former Concord Hotel. I have aggregated these proposals from Mohegan Sun and Montreign and here is what a combined project would look like. Direct casino and hotel investment of nearly one point two billion dollars. A gaming site of seven hundred sixty acres. A combined casino floor area of a hundred twelve thousand square feet with four thousand three hundred eleven gaming positions. Six hundred forty three hotel rooms with twenty restaurant options. And most importantly, land under the control and ownership of the applicants and their affiliates totaling two thousand three hundred seventy nine acres. This project which we call Project MO Squared would have an incredible impact on Sullivan County and the Catskills. Providing licenses to a project in southern Orange County would cut off traffic to the Catskills either preventing true upstate projects from obtaining financing or reducing a project to such a small scale that the economic output would be negligible. Assuming the projects in southern Orange County do not get selected, there is no other combination of licensed awards in this region that would have the same potential for revitalizing the Catskills as two at the Concord. Granting licenses to both Sullivan County projects would create a significant epicenter of development activity including not only two worthy casino projects, but also a great deal of promise collateral development by the casino applicants. No eastern Orange County or Ulster County project has the size or more importantly the scale to support these development prospects. Development that would occur if project MO Squared is approved includes a four hundred and fifty thousand square foot

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waterpark hotel at the Concord, the development of a hundred fifty key spa gulf resort at Grossinger's, and the development of an exciting entertainment village at neighboring Adelaar with commitments already in place for entertainment and dining options involving over a hundred and forty thousand square feet. The overall anticipated spend by the casino applicants by their casino applicants and their affiliates on the casino, the hotels, and induced projects is estimated at over one point five billion dollars. A sum greater than any other proposal under your consideration. Now how does MO Squared deliver New York State more revenue than the mega proposals in southern Orange County? Start with the obvious. These projects are ready to go. Each is through seeker and each has all zoning and planning approvals needed to start construction now. Substantial delay and well-funded legal challenges to other proposals are a near certainty. Today's dollars are far far more valuable than tomorrow's dreams. Especially with other casinos being planned in the already crowded in the northeast marketplace. Any new casino cannibalizes revenue from existing gaming properties including the state's racinos. The tax rate at New York racinos is higher than the tax on gaming revenue will be at New York casinos. For the fiscal year ending March thirty first, two thousand fourteen, the Monticello Casino and Raceway contributed twenty four million dollars to the State Education Fund at its thirty nine percent tax rate. During the same fiscal year the Resort world Project at the aqueduct contributed three hundred forty nine million dollars at its tax rate of thirty four percent. Empire City contributed two hundred seventy seven at its fifty percent tax rate. If half of the racino action in Monticello goes away, it's a twelve million dollar loss to state revenue. If a southern Orange County casino cannibalizes thirty percent of the current play at Yonkers and twenty percent of the current play at aqueduct, the revenue reduction to education would be a staggering loss to New York State of over one hundred fifty million dollars. Any fair analysis must offset projected new tax revenues by the loss of tax revenues on existing New York gaming locations and especially the racinos. Your location board has savvy professionals that you've engaged to do the necessary gravitying bottling. Please be sure the reduction in revenue from existing racinos is in your decision.

Kevin Law: Walter we gotta wrap up, all done. Five minutes up.

Walter Corigliano: Ok.

Paul Francis: Walter I have a question for ya.

Walter Corigliano: Well go ahead. Go ahead.

Paul Francis: Well my question is, this is an interesting way of looking at it and I commend you for putting it together. At the applicant hearing two weeks ago, the question was asked to the Montreign developers whether they would prefer having a clustered two casino approval at the Concord or having only their proposal awarded a franchise and their answer was that they thought they would be better off having only one at the Concord. So what discussions have you had with the developers of Montreign about this issue?

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Walter Corigliano: We haven't had any discussions directly with the developers of Montreign and their position was, and I was at that hearing, they did answer the question in that way but did not indicate at any moment in that question and answer period that they wouldn't welcome the opportunity to get a license if there could be two at that location. They said their preference was there for them to have one, but they didn't say that they wouldn't want to have two.

Paul Francis: That's fine.

Walter Corigliano: We feel that the combination of the Mohegan Sun, Montreign, Grossinger's, and the Adelaar development makes it easy for you guys. It's a one point five billion dollar opportunity in the right place, at the right time. We're right. We're ready. We're recognized. We're ready to go.

Kevin Law: Do you have all those charts available for us as opposed to other boards?

Walter Corigliano: We have them all available for you and I'm sure your gravity analysis and gravity modeling are gonna be very close to the information that we were able to put together.

Bill Thompson: I'd like to take Mr. Francis's question back a little bit in time. Did anybody ever talk to the two entities, Mohegan Sun and Montreign, about putting together a joint proposal for a single license with all of the ancillaries?

Walter Corigliano: I don't believe, having reviewed your rules of engagement in the RFA that there was any opportunity for anybody to do that. So I would suspect that the answer to that question is that they didn't consider it because it wasn't anything that was available. But we believe as the local government officials that this is the way to go and hopefully does anybody here agree with me?

Kevin Law: On that note, good closing line. Thank you very much for your presentations we're now taking a thirty minute break. We'll re-convene at one pm. Thank you.