
Kevin Law: For those who are new and maybe weren't with us in the morning. My name is Kevin Law and I'm the Chairman of the Gaming Location Facility Board and with me to my right is a member of the board Dennis Glazor and joining us on the phone has been Stewart Rivitalitz, Paul Francis, and Bill Thompson. We are working off two sets of lists; those who registered, pre-registered to speak, and then those who registered today. And everybody gets five minutes with the timer and don't feel obligated to use all five minutes. So with that you know keep your comments to the particular project you're proposing or opposing and try not to make it personal. We expect you guys to respect all of each other and us and we are going to respect you and your time as well. So with that, up first John Patti.

John Patti: Thank you sir. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today sir. My name is John Patti. I have no financial connection with Logo and I support Lago. I'm a community, I don't wanna say activist.

Dennis Glazor: That's good enough for the president.

John Patti: Say again?

Dennis Glazor: It's good enough for the president.

John Patti: You destroyed my train of thought.

Dennis Glazor: I apologize.

John Patti: Alright I speak in favor of Lago and unfortunately I have only three hundred seconds for this. That's a bigger number, it sounds better. But, so I'm gonna be as brief and as concise as possible. Now unfortunately most of the things that I have in my notes have already been talked about. So I'm not gonna bore you. I know you're volunteers and this is a trying process for you as well as for some of the folks like me who traveled from Waterloo north of here. So I'm gonna get right on with this. I reside in Waterloo just twelve miles from Lago, or the proposed site. I'm a retired teacher. I devoted thirty four years to my profession in the Waterloo School District. I'm also a member of the Lions Clubs in the area. I'm presently in the Geneva Lions Club for over thirty years. I believe as did Eleanor Roosevelt when she espoused the following in one of her speeches. Everything we do in life should have some value. Think about that. That's why Lago should be licensed. This may have been alluded too but I believe Lago's proximity to New York's transportation corridor, the throughway, has the capability of bringing visitors from far west, far east, and it could work. If we look to the future, and I'm a futurist. Not only will the throughway bring tourists and visitors to this area but there are other modes of transportation that should be exploited or brought about I should say. We must, and I emphasize must, reduce our independency on gasoline. I drive an electric car. A Chevy Volt and I use as little gasoline as possible. If you wanna know more about the Volt see me privately. Looking to the future I think we will utilize a high speed one hundred twenty five mile per hour monorail system for carrying people similar to what's in Japan. The technology exists and more than likely that rail system will either use the existing Conrail east west corridor, which passes right near Tyre or an existing

elevated east west monorail system of the throughway. Either way a rail passenger station should probably be situated near Tyre. Now your choice for Lago as a resort in our area will change our community economically. I can't stress that enough. You know this. There are all kinds of amenities besides a casino that are going to be put there if this thing is licensed. Restaurants, a spa, a facility for Las Vegas type shows, a concierge service so that people can be directed to area tourist attractions, and especially I was told that a facilitator for the treatment of gambling addiction in cooperation with the Seneca County Health Department will be funded by Lago. There's going to be a counselor paid for by Lago who will work with the Seneca County Health Department to help stem problem gambling. Excuse me, it's not difficult to understand the economic prosperity that the facility will bring to our county. I'm told that it is projected that two hundred ninety three million dollars and you know this...

Kevin Law: Sorry Mr. Patti your time's up.

John Patti: Already?

Kevin Law: It is. Three hundred seconds. It goes quick.

John Patti: Well it will probably help our county and as Eleanor Roosevelt said everything in our life should have some value gentlemen, and I trust it will.

Kevin Law: Than you.

Dennis Glazor: What did you teach Mr. Patti?

John Patti: I taught Tech Ed. and Science.

Dennis Glazor: Thank you.

John Patti: And I miss the kids but I don't miss the administration.

Dennis Glazor: It's probably mutual.

Kevin Law: Will Steven Speno.

John Patti: I have a news, the executive summary. And I have enough for everybody.

Kevin Law: That's fine give it to staff please.

Dennis Glazor: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Steven Speno.

John Patti: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

John Patti: Steven Speno, he's one of my students. Hi Steve.

Steve Speno: I was one of John's students and you're correct it's not mutual. But John's a great guy. Good afternoon gentlemen my name is Steve Speno. I'm from Waterloo, New York. I've been a community supporter of business as well as youth for a number of years. I'm a former Board of Education member. Corporate and private business for thirty plus years and I own my own small financial business now that serves small and medium companies in our area and also training with financial software. I'm a graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology and like many graduates I came back to the area to work there after graduation. That's not the case today. Since that time when I came back Sylvania and the Southern Army Depot have closed. Gould's Pumps has streamlined and downsized. Eisenhower College has gone and the chiropractic college isn't as big. Estimated probably five thousand jobs we lost in our area in twenty five years. Many of the businesses I deal with now are struggling. They're struggling for a couple of reasons. The population is getting smaller from retirees and the young people unlike myself have not come back to the area to work there. They're finding opportunities in other places. We need business in our area. We need an economic stimulus. We need growth in our region. If we want our area to be economically stable in the future we need to do these things and I support the Lago Casino Resort. Currently we are one of the smallest and lowest per capita areas in the state. My research said fifty two out of sixty two regions. We want that to be built up. The naysayers of the casino like to preserve their own personal interest I believe and they think that they're preserving the area. I think in twenty years however as we've seen the population decrease in the last twenty five years, unless we get business it will continue to decrease over the next twenty years. The school districts are our biggest employers. Right now they're on discreimity for financial aid and which is diminishing and they're gonna face consolidation. I know that because I've been part of it when I was on the school board. I stand behind the resort casino proposal as a reality in our Seneca County area. I believe that the casino project will assist in bringing our tourism, more tourism, and business tourism to our area as well as people who decide to establish businesses there. Conservatively, there are fifteen hundred construction jobs and fifteen hundred permanent jobs that the Wilmorite is proposing. And always the naysayers and the negative people by five or six times. I wanted to see a positive economic growth stimulus in our area that cares for the people. Working at Bausch and Lomb for twenty years, I know for a fact that the Wilmots do very positive things and have great accomplishments in their area. And I commend Tom Wilmot and his family for that. This casino will definitely be prosperous to our area. They're many benefits. We are benefitting the tax revenue, the most I understand of any of the other options. The disposable income in our region will stay in our region rather than go to other gaming institutions that the state will not qualify for those funds. And we will also have some year round stability in our area. We are very seasonal now and we will not be very seasonal and have some stability in our area if we had a casino there twenty four seven. In closing, you've listened to many numbers and are probably tired of it, and many estimates over the last few days. And I don't stand here with any guarantees. There's no guarantees for job numbers, there's no guarantees for sales tax revenue, and there's no guarantees for the impact on the economy. But I

do have one guarantee. The guarantee I have is if the Lago Casino Resort does not award the Seneca County, business will not grow, the county will not grow, and the maximum tax dollars to New York State will not happen. I can guarantee that because I've seen it over the last twenty five years. One last comment, today I've heard a number of of comments both negative and positive for other casinos and what I've heard from the competition and I understand is they are going to add to the respective areas. In Seneca County, this casino and resort will rebuilt our county and I think that should be a goal of the state. Thank you for your time. I'll answer any questions you have.

Dennis Glazor: I have none.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

Steve Speno: Thank you.

Kevin Law: David Brown.

David Brown: I want to thank the committee for allowing me to speak here today. I am the president of the Horseman's Association at Finger Lakes Race Track which is about twenty five minutes down the road from the proposed Lago Casino.

Dennis Glazor: In what direction?

David Brown: Going east. I'm here because, not because we strongly oppose or support any of the respective licenses but because we have a concern about what we consider to be an ambiguity enabling legislation and depending on how that enabling legislation is interpreted, could have a significant effect on the fifteen hundred individuals, several hundred businesses and farms that rely on Finger Lakes Race Track for their financial benefit. Now the ambiguity that I speak of is it's clear of the legislative intent in passing the inbeing legislation was designed to protect horseman, to protect the racing industry in the quote unquote region of the licensee and the state licensee. The problem with that is the interpretation of the word region. As you know region five as its characterized which reminds me a little bit about a course that I took in undergraduate school, Legislative and Districting and kind of looks like a jury man in the district as opposed to the other ones that are pretty well defined. Unfortunately depending on upon how you interpret the word region, whether you interpret the word region in the legislation as meaning that the state casino must support the horseman in the neighborhood of the vicinity, if that's one interpretation of the word region. The other interpretation would be defining it as the regions that set forth by the governor in his design of the various regions for future gaming expansion. So our position is that if a casino is put in at a Lago Casino if the Wilmorite Casino is placed there the legislative intent was to protect the horseman which are in the vicinity of the casino and that would be us. It obviously isn't Tioga Downs which is two hours away. Obviously that would be a compromise of the legislative intent. We're concerned because if our accountants tell us that if the Lago Casino goes in that our gaming revenue at Finger Lakes Race Track will drop by about a third. Some people estimate that maybe even more than that. That would ultimately, and I think

that you have a letter from the New York State Breeders Association which states that that would ultimately lead to the closing of the Finger Lakes Race Track within several years and we agree with that. No owner, no trainer, and no breeder is going to send a horse to Finger Lakes Race Track with a purse account down by thirty three percent or forty percent or whatever the estimates are. And we feel strongly that if that now Mr. Wilmorite and I have met, Mr. Wilmorite believes that his casino is obligated to support the Tioga Downs horseman which is totally as far as I'm concerned illogical. If in fact there is in some definition of put to that by the legislature by this committee in licenses and Mr. Wilmot is successful in obtaining a license it will mean economic devastation to Ontario County, to the breeding in New York State as well as the fifteen hundred people that rely, individuals, hardworking I might add, hardworking individuals that work at Finger Lakes Race Track on the racing side. It's my hope that if Mr. Wilmorite or Mr. Wilmot's casino is approved that there will be some stipulation put into that legislation and or into his licensure that will define what the word region means and will define it so that the intent of the legislature which was to protect horsemen in the vicinity which is where we are will be fulfilled and I thank you for your time.

Dennis Glazor: Thank you. Your track is in Farmington?

David Brown: I'm sorry?

Dennis Glazor: Farmington?

David Brown: Yes. It's right down the road.

Dennis Glazor: Yeah I see.

David Brown: Down the throughway. Two exits. Thank you.

Dennis Glazor: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Next up is James Hoffman.

James Hoffman: Yes, good afternoon. My name is Jim Hoffman. I'm from Wayne County. I'm the chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Wayne County and I've been fortunate enough to have that position for nine years. I would just like to set forth the position of Wayne County on the proposal for the site in Tyre, that Wayne County fully supports it. The location of Tyre borders the southern part of Wayne County. It's right adjacent to a town of Galen. So it's not in Wayne County but it's very close. The proposal has been presented to the board. The board's reviewed it and a resolution by the board of supervisors, it was fully supported. And I would like that to be weighed in carefully in the decision for the board. I certainly appreciate the opportunity to be here and I think that there's a lot of opportunities for jobs as we're led to believe and I think that Wayne County's in a good position to benefit from that. The other proposals have I don't think any benefits for Wayne County.

Dennis Glazor: Thank you.

James Hoffman: That's it.

Kevin Law: Ok. Thank you.

James Hoffman: Thank you for being here.

Kevin Law: Thank you. James Marquette.

James Marquette: Good afternoon. I'm Jim Marquette. I'm the county administrator in Wayne County and as Mr. Hoffman's indicated, Wayne County supports the Lago proposal in Seneca County. As Mr. Hoffman also indicated, Wayne County is a neighbor just to the north of Seneca County and the site. We've looked at five of our towns that are within a reasonable driving distance for possible employment and commuting. And those are the towns of Galen, Lions, Savannah, Rose, and Butler. And those are the towns that when I talk statistics here, we will speak about. The median family income in Wayne County is almost sixty thousand dollars, its fifty nine eight forty eight. When you take that five town subset in Wayne County we're looking at fifty two thousand eight seventy one. Per capita income, similar kind of comparison. We're at twenty three thousand eight eighty two county wide. Within those five towns; twenty one six seventeen. The percent of families below the poverty level is seven point two percent for the entire county. Within that particular five town subset; eight point six percent. And percent of people below the poverty level; ten and a half percent in the county, that particular five town subset at fourteen and a half percent. We believe that the proposal will generate activity that will be not only during construction but also during operation will assist our residents, and especially in these five towns, to obtain employment. The entire, all of Wayne County certainly needs an additional economic development and employment opportunities. But I think as my few numbers that I've presented here indicate, these five towns within this proximity of this particular proposal are the ones who most can benefit within our county. And we believe it's a good match for our county and a good match for our people. July unemployment rate for the county was five point eight percent. I will tell you that we took a July number although after, we're a heavy agricultural county so that after we get through harvest and the heavy agricultural season typically our unemployment rate rises. We believe this will be a destination. We believe that there's an opportunity long-term for the county to benefit as a neighbor to some of that development and when it becomes a destination to hopefully attract some additional development on our side of maybe of the border but at least in Wayne County, the people and their tax payers would benefit there. So again, we believe there's an employment opportunity for the residents during construction, during operation, and we believe again that there's additional opportunities and economic development as well as job creation opportunities down the line. So I didn't use all of my time. I think I made my point that we're in support of the Lago proposal. Thank you.

Both Dennis Glazor and Kevin Law: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Ok we now go back to our list of people who signed up today to speak. Jeff O'Donnell. Is Jeff here? Jonathan Dooley. Jonathan?

Jonathan Dooley: Thank you for letting me speak and my name is Jonathan Dooley as you said. My family has a home and a small business in Tyre. I'm gonna be reading a letter from my older brother who couldn't be here today. This letter's intention is to show opposition to the proposed casino located in the rural farmland of the Town of Tyre. I have a vested interest in Tyre. Many family members own property, business, and farms in the town. I have many friends that have stakes in Tyre as well. We want to keep Tyre rural. We don't want to compromise our farmland for the greed of the state and the developer. I own a home in the Village of Waterloo where I'm raising my family just six miles of the proposed site. Quite frankly, I'm very concerned and appalled that the ramifications that this casino will have on all aspects of life in this small town and those around it. Many studies show cannibalization of the local economy will result from inserting casinos in the rural landscape. Do we want this? No. Can afford a blow to our local economy? No. We need real industry. Not flash in the pan income that will dwindle within five years. Other issues that arise are increased crime and an exponential increase in gambling addiction. Increases in divorce. Increases in suicide. Plus many more social economic blows. Additionally, our highway system is already being strained due to the trucks going from the throughway to the landfill along with visitors to the outlet mall. In addition, an additional nine thousand cars per day will be a dangerous increase, especially for the local farmers and members of the Amish community who use slow moving vehicles and horse and buggy daily on these roads. The remedy for this problem will be an update to the roadways, bridges, and intersections. Who will be paying for these updates? I'm thinking it won't be the developer. That leaves me and my fellow tax payers. Will it solve all of the above problems? No. There will still be buggies and farm equipment traveling on these roads. They are inherently slow, becoming obstacles to drivers to maneuver around. The proposed casino is being built is a boost for the economy. But will it perform as promised? Will it be a boost for the economy when a large percent of the patrons will be local, will be locals after the hype has worn off? Will it be a boost for the economy when addicts can't pay their bills and fall into foreclosure of have their vehicles repossessed? Will it be a boost for the economy when it steals patrons from the local racino and Turning Stone, causing loss of employment from those existing facilities? The answer is no. I cannot support something that promises prosperity but has been shown time and time again to destroy wealth and prosperity. Please do not allow the casino in our precious farmland. Jeffrey Dooley.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Hey Jonathan. First, thank you. You could submit your letter to staff if you want. If it is a letter for your brother. But go back up to the podium I have two questions for you. What do you do Jonathan, do you work or go to school or?

Jonathan Dooley: Right now I'm in college.

Kevin Law: In college. And do you live in Tyre as well?

Jonathan Dooley: Yeah I live with my family.

Kevin Law: And that letter was from your brother. How do you feel about the proposal?

Jonathan Dooley: The same way as he does.

Kevin Law: The same way. Alright thank you very much. Jim Ferrell.

Anthony Grassy: Good afternoon gentlemen and thank you. My name is Anthony Grassy. Jim Ferrell had to leave and he deferred his time to me if that's alright with you?

Kevin Law: It is now.

Anthony Grassy: Ok. I live on Johnson City, New York and Broome County. I'm going to be expressing support for Traditions Resort and Casino in a little different way. In a little more personal way. I'm fifty six years old. For the first twenty years of my life I grew up in Endicott, New York, the home of IBM, about four miles from the current Traditions location. For the last thirty six years I've lived in the Fairmont Park area of Johnson City which directly borders the Traditions building itself. So in other words if you walked out in my back yard and took a baseball and threw it as hard as you could probably three, four times you would actually hit the building. That's how close I am. So for thirty six years I've been in that position. I know the area really well and I have a very good feel of what would happen if a casino were put up there. And that's why I support it and I'll get into some detail in a minute. There's a lot of natural beauty in that area. There's hills. There's a glen. It's really beautiful but there's also a lot of businesses in that area. At the same time we're very economically depressed. We're hurting very bad. There's a lot of attractions in Binghamton. There's a lot of things to do but there's a lot of empty buildings, empty store fronts, and we need some help big time. Just to throw a few numbers at you; in the forty two years between the 1970 and 2012, Broome County's population fell by twenty five thousand people, that's eleven percent. From two hundred and twenty two thousand to a hundred and ninety seven thousand. That's a very large drop, around eleven percent on a base that size. And this huge drop was largely driven by international keystone industries including Endicott Johnson, IBM, Singer Lake. I used to work at Singer Lake. When they moved to Texas I chose not to go. I chose to remain in Broome County. Over the same time period the population of our neighboring Tioga County remained relative stable at about forty three thousand people. The population of Tioga County is only about one fifth of Broome County and that's very important to consider and I'll tell you why in a minute. Broome County has not and will not recover from the large population loss and large business loss if something is not done to spark traffic, we need traffic and traffic is not a bad thing, and revenue generation in our area. There are one thousand unemployed individuals in Tioga County as opposed to six thousand unemployed individuals in Broome County. That's six thousand ready to work individuals that Traditions would immediately draw on for their labor base. Many of these employees will be on an established bus route. That's very important. They won't have to drive to work. They can take a bus to work. Tioga County on the other hand is looking to end their public transportation system because only two hundred people per month use it. Ok. Also while Tioga Downs currently draws about sixty million dollars a year in revenue, that's a lot of money, sixty million

dollars a year, they have a population of forty thousand people and that sixty million dollars a year has not been used for community development that anyone can notice because there's nothing to develop there and I'll get into that further in a minute.

Dennis Glazor: Just so you know you have about a minute left to get into all the things that you're gonna get to in a minute.

Anthony Grassy: Ok. Eighty five percent of Tioga County Tioga Downs employees lives in Pennsylvania. That means they spend their paychecks in Pennsylvania. Tioga County, Tioga Downs floods. It floods twice already. Traditions will never flood even though we're in a flood zone. They are on higher ground and have an access road so. No revenue will be lost by a flood ever at traditions. And the last thing I want to say is that I've taken a drive, I took a drive yesterday from my home on Route 86 which is east of Nickels. I drove from my home to Tioga Downs. You get off the exit, there's a cemetery there. You take a right, there's an RV place and there is absolutely nothing else except homes, some of them very old, and farmland. So what I urge you to do before making your decision, you or anybody else on the board, please drive to each of the three areas and you'll see why Traditions is a clear choice. It'll hit you like a ton of bricks.

Kevin Law: Time's up.

Anthony Grassy: Ok thanks. I appreciate it.

Kevin Law: Diane Stento.

Diane Stento: Good afternoon.

Kevin Law: Hi Diane.

Diane Stento: I am Diane Stento but I would like to introduce Elaine Miller and we would like to share the spot if that's ok. Elaine is here....

Kevin Law: You can share the five minutes.

Diane Stento: Yes, yes. To read a statement from our county executive Debbie Preston who could not be here.

Elaine Miller: Good afternoon. Again my name is Elaine Miller. I am the commissioner for Planning and Economic Development for Broome County. County Executor Debbie Preston is very much in favor of the Traditions Casino that's, as it's proposed and unfortunately she could not be here today because she's recovering from Chemo Therapy.

Kevin Law: And she's the county executive of Broome?

Elaine Miller: She is the county executive for Broome County. So without further ado here is Debbie's statement. As Broome County Executive I feels strongly that choosing Traditions at the Glenn Casino proposal in our community would be an economic boom not only for our area but for the entire state of New York. Traditions at the Glenn is near the intersection of three major interstate highways and many people pass through Broome County to get to many other parts of the state. The casino would be located near the border with Pennsylvania and would likely serve thousands of out of state customers with its hotel rooms, full service spa, top notch golf course, hiking trails, and much more. There are plenty of other attractions that are just a short drive from the proposed site. There are dozens of local chain stores offer it, local and chain stores, offering a wide variety of unique products. We have an AHL hockey team and a AA baseball team that not only bring fans to our area but also other teams. We host a professional golf tournament in the summer that brings thousands of people into our community for an entire week. Our Floyd L. Maines Memorial Arena and Forum Theater host concerts with big name acts throughout the year. We have dozens of hotels and restaurants and a festival in the summer that brings in musical acts and thousands of people to watch hot air balloons and enjoy speedies, a Broome County food specialty. There are nearly two hundred thousand people in Broome County and we are confident a vast majority of those people would support a casino in their back yard. Along with the number of people who would visit and spend money at the casino, we have a large group of people that would benefit in the way of jobs. This casino would employ hundreds of local people from construction jobs to hospitality jobs to people running the gaming tables and more. Our local community college, SUNY Broome which is just a few minutes from the proposed site, is starting a program in casino management in which students will learn the ins and outs of the industry. We will have some of our best and brightest young minds train to run a top notch casino facility in our community. Binghamton University is also just a short drive from the proposed site. A casino would provide faculty, staff, students, and visitors with another entertainment option in our community. I know the people in Albany have a tough decision but to me putting a casino in Broome County makes the most sense. Not only will it be a benefit to the people of Broome County, but the people of the state of New York as a whole. Now my only personal two cents of I may for the next ten seconds is that I sincerely hope that you will consider siting the new casino from a community revitalization perspective. We think it's important to site the casino in a population center where it's going to benefit the most people from a community revitalization perspective. We feel very strongly about that and I'd like to say more but I'm gonna turn the microphone back over to Diane.

Dennis Glazor: Please wish your county executive our best wishes on her treatment.

Elaine Miller: I will, thank you.

Diane Stento: Again my name is Diane Stento. I have been a resident of Broome County my whole life. Do I have to tell you how many years?

Dennis Glazor: No.

Diane Stento: Good.

Dennis Glazor: Of a certain age.

Diane Stento: Of a certain age. I'll say as long as I've experienced the IBM, the General Electric, the EJ, all of it and I've watched what's happened in these last years. Obviously a commonality with everyone here are jobs and economic growth. But we have so much more to offer. We really do have so much more to offer people coming into the area. So I say yes to gentleman who spoke before Elaine. I agree whole heartedly. I want to say thank you for being here today to listen. You know your jobs are difficult but I would hope that you will base your decision on merit. Not on relationships, not on political connections or contributions, and not on entitlement but on merit. Broome County has four to five times the population of any of the other applicants. Our people need help. I know we all do but New York can serve Binghamton, excuse me, Broome County better by choosing Traditions.

Kevin Law: Good.

Diane Stento: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Hannam Kinney.

Hannam Kinney: Thank you for being here and for giving us this chance. My name is Hannam Kinney. I live here Waterloo, I am from Waterloo and been thirty years I have been in this United State. Twenty five years I live near about four mile from proposed site. I hope you understand my speaking.
(Heavy Chinese accent/broken English)

Kevin Law: You're doing great.

Hannam Kinney: Thank you. My family and I strongly oppose this casino project. We strongly feel this will be negative impact to the area for reasons. The tropic will be a diversity effect. Farming will be catered to our farm this area and many tile residents. Who own land not only wanted to move for their own reasons. There are oppose of this project. I pry have spoken that I am home mother and also wife and we have four children in ways that one income from my husband. So we can survive with I am sure but there are a lot of people looking for job. I feel sorry that them because job is everywhere opportunity but just you know that they sometimes people wants more. So I'm gonna finish my spoken. I am very displeased to think that there will be any reason to consider replacing such a out of character. Can place it in farmland homestead country living embowment. That is very important for my family and what I living and important my community and I myself family do not want a casino gambling. Why would I do other people have in a commuse that thing. So that what I stand out for here today. There is as I pray for you and humbly beg you to listen to the opposition to this complex that it not be built in Tyre or any other township for what is really need as a job from the production that is built here in this estate. Where we employment for it to benefit us? Let us stop wasting tax money chasing dreams like entertainments get all community back into the product business and not sad over the

product made from other country and get riches games. Look at what is on the face of US Currency money. That we see in God we trust. Even we are not have to have in God we trust. For God was not in put there by our forefather. There is a reason why. I stay here for to the problems of 1028 to hope over the righteousness and sharp glenness but expectation of the weakly shall perish and the way of our lord is a strength to the upright but the destruction should be to the walker of the inquiry. The righteousness of our neighbor shall be moved but the weakly shall not inherit the Earth. We do not wanna end a city bottom like gambling community. And thank you for blessing me today. I was, I have a minute so, I was at petition sign up for neighborhood for about one, two days I spent time. Because I was been sick and so I was about fifteen house asking to sign up. There was people like us not too rich. I mean I can judge a small house of medium family. There was sign for yes, no to casino. But there's some bout a third percent of people reject the they wanna stay cajino they wanna be having a casino having a job. There are people is a bigger than our will leave house. They bigger house they have. But they wanna have a casino. So worry, God in we trust and we are looking for so much thing. We need to be honesty, integrity, and life of your family. Safety your own family. Your own community. We love our self and we love others. That's what I can speaking here today. Thank you for listening.

(Heavy Chinese accent/broken English)

Kevin Law: Thank you.

Hannam Kinney: God bless.

Kevin Law: Bob Ashe.

Bob Ashe: Good afternoon. I am Bob Ashe. A small business owner located in Binghamton, New York. Today I also represent the many employees of our business in supporting the Walsh family's effort to bring a casino and resort center to Traditions. The Walsh family are very successful businessmen who have demonstrated a long track record of success in all of their business endeavors. Which importantly, which is important because it minimizes the risk and ensures a successful casino and resort center at Traditions. Specifically, Traditions at the Glenn is already a first class hotel and venue. They did a beautiful job at restoring the old IBM homestead and golf course. If you live in this area, if you live in our area, this is where you want to have your daughter's wedding or you want to play a round of golf with friends or business associates. And just recently the spa received national recognition. I'm impressed with Bill, Pete, Matt Walsh, and their commitment to our area. I'm appreciative of their hard work, the sacrifice, and the significant amount of monetary investment that got us to this point today. They are not just talk, but real action. As a life-long resident of Broome County I can assure you that my colleagues, my friends, family are excited in overwhelmingly support of this great opportunity for us and our children and our grandchildren. Creating local revenue will benefit many businesses and all the residents of Broome County with jobs. Some direct. Many indirect such as restaurants and hotels and shops and service companies to support this wonderful first class tourist attraction. I understand that this initiative by New York State is to revitalize declining communities. And unfortunately I am sad to say that we have been recognized nationally as

among the worst. The impact of this project will be felt throughout the southern tier and will provide much needed tax relief. Contrary to a comment stated earlier this morning and cherry picked from old articles; I am aware that the traffic and all other issues have been addressed by the Traditions team to the satisfaction of the local municipalities. Frankly, increased traffic is exactly what we need. In summary, I would like to thank the Walsh family and their team for their significant effort to make an everlasting impact on our community and I commend them for their sincere and genuine desire to improve the local economy and create jobs and opportunity in the Binghamton area. As a local businessman, a parent, and a grandparent I ask that you reward their tremendous enthusiasm, their comprehensive plan for success, and choose Traditions. Thank you very much.

Kevin Law: Thank you Bob. Vince Palmeri.

Vince Palmeri: Thanks for listening to me today. Good day. My name is Vincent Palmeri. I've lived in Broome County for most of my life. I support Traditions two hundred percent and what Mr. Ashe just said. The proposed casino will be near my neighborhood and although some naysayers will raise issues about the increase in traffic, I welcome any growth in our community. I will happily deal with a few more cars daily and I can take an alternate route. I come from a blue collar background and I was a meat cutter for ten years and meat manager for a local wholesale meat company and grocery chain. However I've been fortunate enough to now serve the insurance industry as an independent property casualty license insured and bonded adjuster for twenty one years. I am past president of the New York State Association of Independent Adjusters. I have worked in thirteen states in twenty one years from numerous hurricanes and catastrophes. In other words I've worked in enough areas and states to know that Broome County is severely severely depressed. Along with once other thriving areas of New York. Our roads, buildings, and infrastructure neighborhoods are falling apart. My position is simple, we need, deserve and welcome and earn Traditions in the proposed casino project in Johnson City as we are an already existing community that would benefit the most from your decision. We have food wholesalers, lumber companies, linen companies, gift shops, flower companies, it's such that would need to be revitalized and need the growth. These are all small local homegrown businesses. I believe that his is the intent that the Governor Cuomo and the Gaming Committee had when they awarded and proposed a new casino to region five. Another strange thing that happened in Broome County over the years is that as kids we watched the IBM Corporation relocate families to the south. Mostly Charlotte, North Caroline, Fishkill, or Pokipsy. This was in the 70s and 80s. As a result many jobs left our area. An area that was built by hard working immigrants and then very talented programmers, engineers, and flourishing businesses that trickled down from IBM. That migration south was not the worst of it to come. Then in the late 80s and 90s the mayor of Binghamton, I won't mention her name, made a deal with the state and relocated many section eight, welfare, and public assistance recipients to our county. This undoubtedly had a retrograding effect. Obviously it was cheaper to house them in Binghamton than New York City or another metro area. But our area has suffered because of that. Your decision will help undo what other state committees have done to our area. Your decisions for Traditions will help revive our area. We are a pre-existing business community in the forgotten county of New York that will benefit the most. We still enjoy local housing, minimal traffic,

great community events, and friendly neighborhoods and restaurants. These are entities that will benefit and are preexisting. The Walsh family is a beacon of light in our area and have supported Broome County for years and have grown their construction business. They've risked the most with this proposal of this project. They took a retrograding building in Johnson City previously owned by IBM and revitalized it and protected the history of IBM contrary to prior comments that I've heard today. They made Traditions Golf and Spa into a beautiful taxpaying institution that have a proven track record to improve our economy. Building a casino in the middle of a cornfield will not grow an economy. People come and leave without stopping and or contributing to any local businesses. They would simply jump off the interstate and jump back on to go home. Where will the new proposed employees live when there is not enough existing housing near these very small towns. I would guess that mobile home parks would pop up and flourish. I don't consider mobile home parks a part of urban development. We already have a community and enough housing that would be and needs to be renovated and revitalized. SUNY Binghamton which is the, you know, first and second first let's say first best SUNY school in the state would partner with traditions and has agreed to help in regards to gambling and its potential downfalls. As you know SUNY Binghamton is right across the river. I've known Bill Walsh for eleven years and he is the type of man who is always has the time and interest in speaking with others and takes time to get to know them. Owning and operating a construction company they have the can-do attitude and expedite construction efficiently and quickly using local suppliers and contractors. Philanthropy is a word to describe the Walsh and the Walsh family cause they contribute to Catholic charities Make a Wish Society, Daniele House, Wendy's, and the American Cancer Society just to name a few. They have risked the most are the underdogs...

Kevin Law: Vince you're out of time.

Vince Palmeri: in this committee...

Dennis Glazor: We're out of time.

Vince Palmeri: Thank you for your decision.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Gary Finch.

Gary Finch: Good afternoon. Chairmen I appreciate the opportunity to come before you and share my remarks. I also have copies of what I'm gonna say. So give it to you afterwards?

Kevin Law: Yep.

Dennis Glazor: Afterwards.

Gary Finch: Ok. I'm a member of the New York State Assembly. I represent the 126th Assembly District which is north of here to Onondaga County but I'm a former member of the 123rd Assembly District which included the southern tier in Tioga County. So I have a bit of an interest in the southern tier as well. I represented them for over ten years. And it was interested to hear

the comments from the other individuals that were here this afternoon. But this is not a Tioga County issue and it's not a Broome County issues contrary to what we've heard. This is a southern tier issue and it's depressed we've heard that. The area's very depressed since IBM left. My concern is to place more than one casino in the southern tier or near a racino as a dooming both to failure. We should learn from what's just happened in Atlantic City. You can saturate the market and that will become a major problem and both entities will not function well. So I'll share what I've written with you and go into the record. Successful endeavors often begin with an ambitious vision. One that was struck immediately when I read the Executive Summary Report that Tioga Downs submitted to the New York Gaming Facility Location Board to the development act of 2013. Tioga Downs bid is represented by a community oriented stake holders who want to exceed the high standards that were commissioned to help the hard working citizens of the southern tier. The New York Gaming Economic Development Act set stringent criteria for casino hopefuls to outline in their proposals. Applications to establish gaming operations must include the detailed plans to catalyze communities with job creation. Right now Tioga Downs employs approximately four hundred people. The casino brought to them they'll increase that to twelve hundred and forty. Very important, not just for Tioga County, the entire southern tier. I firmly believe that Tioga Downs will achieve their goal of going above and beyond the standards that were set by the commission. And if I can find the page here. Expanding operations at Tioga Downs has tremendous economic implications for the southern tier. Tioga Downs is uniquely positioned to attract tourists with expendable income. Located as the gateway to the finger lakes Tioga Downs develops a symbiotic partnership with tourism, the wine industry, all the different entities and satellite businesses that will be attracted. Additionally the facility would be well situated to draw gaming enthusiasts from Pennsylvania. Simply put, revenue projections look excellent. How will the revenue benefit the diligent families of the southern tier besides easing their tax burden? Tioga Downs would provide a host of good employment opportunities in a region that is desperately in need of that. To show their support for prospective employees Tioga Downs pays a minimum wage of ten dollars and ten cents. Additionally, Tioga Downs has assured us that they will plan to provide many opportunities for minority and women businesses as well. Tioga Downs is also willing community partner. They have allocated five hundred thousand dollars annually to a charitable fund and they have a philanthropic record to back that up. During the flooding in the southern tier they were there. Over a million dollars was contributed the united way in different agencies. Mr. Gruel and his staff are true neighbors and they are concerned about the whole southern tier. This will benefit everyone. Once again, to locate more than one facility of this nature in the southern tier dooms both to economic disaster. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Ok back to our list of those who registered. James Dolly.

James Dolly: Thank you Mr. Chairman and fellow board member. This opportunity to testify here today. I listened to earlier reports and would have to say I have to disagree with some of them. My name is James Dolly III. I've lived in near Tyre my entire life. I'm representing Casino-Free Tyre. A group formed to preserve a way of life that has been cherished for the past two hundred and twenty years with the hope of passing this same quality of life onto the future generations. I come before you today to speak on the behalf of the many people of Tyre whose

prayers are the Wilmorite Casino will not be granted approval to build a casino in our small rural agricultural town with a population of less than one thousand. Our town identifies itself on the town of Tyre's website as a place of homes, fields, marshes, geese; the community strives to maintain its rural flavor as the world passes by along the New York State Throughway. In November 2013 the sentiments of the town were shown when the proposal number one was not supported in the town of Tyre with it being defeated one hundred and fourteen opposing to one hundred in favor. This count does not reflect either the Amish or the Mennonite Communities. Both of who by their beliefs do not vote and are not in favor a casinos. Sadly since the introduction of the proposal proposed casino many values once held dear by the town have quickly become expendable for a price. Boundaries once believed to be the divide between commercial and agricultural zones have been trampled for the benefit the of the proposed Wilmorite Casino. Recognizing the negative impacts that such a massive complex in our agricultural district across Route 414 from the Amish farm would have on the future of our homes, farms, businesses, and families in Tyre. Many in our community so our individual and corporate voices could be heard as well as giving a voice to the voiceless so there silence would not be used against them. Through this process the citizens who have spoken out have been deliberately betrayed as a small but very vocal group and were recently a micro minority. But by the applicant, this by the applicant to undermined the increasing negative sentiment towards the proposed casino project. Through our ever-growing number of petition signers and supporters, two hundred and eighteen in the town of Tyre as well as those within the area of Tyre stand with us by petitioner letter over twenty five hundred. We were confident that we did speak for the majority. To prove this fact beyond reproach we engaged in a national firm to to conduct a unbiased poll of the people most effected by the Wilmot Casino, the residents of Tyre. I can now say with complete confidence the response to this poll said loud and clear and by wide majority, we do not want this casino. Also confirmed by this poll was that we have believed all along to be true that those who have understood what a casino would do our small rural town and surrounding areas have zeo no passion to preserve them. Forty one percent of the people polled who stated they are opposed to a casino in Tyre described their intensity as strongly against the casino while only twenty four percent strongly support the casino. The opposition outpaces support nearly two to one. This passion and sense of community does not come to those that view their houses as a temporary layover but by those who choose a community to make it their home. Eighty one percent of the people in the poll have lived in Tyre for more than ten years. Also despite the best efforts of the proposed casino applicants to sell their product the poll results showed only twenty four percent felt it would have a positive impact on their daily lives. The will of the majority of the people of Tyre has not been heard in this process. The repeated outcries from the majority of the community have been ignored. Exemplified by the statement made September 8th to this very board board by the town Tyre supervisor Ronald McGreevy quote "after looking at every imaginable way we've repeatedly announced they've endorsed it with overwhelming support of the residents of Tyre," end quote. And also the statements made this morning. To further emphasize the gap between those who were opposing those that would support, emphasize the gap between those who are opposing and those who would support a casino please consider this survey does not include the Amish or Mennonite communities both of which are universally opposed to a casino in Tyre. I ask you please do not discount our citizens as it has been made clear far more Tyre residents oppose a casino than support it. We provide,

have provided this board with multiple shipments of information. We hope our efforts have not been in vein. And you have be careful, you will carefully consider all that we have provided and arrive at the same conclusion that the people of Tyre have: that Tyre is not the choice for a casino in region five.

Kevin Law: James time's up.

James Dolly: Oh. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Ok thank you. James Balch.

James Balch: Good afternoon gentlemen.

Kevin Law: Hello.

James Balch: It's a real honor to be here. First of all I have to say, Tyre is not the place for the casino. Not by any means. And if you look around you'll see why. I'm' here to represent these men today. I've come here to explain the true view that has not been heard from before. But that is one of, if not the most important ones that you should hear today out of everything else that's being said concerning Tyre. This is from a large group of people that live in the area and as you look around some of them are here. They're the Amish. They are known as the old order Amish. They've moved to Tyre area, the Clyde community, the Romulus community, and the later the Rose community. They came here from Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Ohio, all around me are as well as many from Canada. And they came here because it was good farming area. They came here so that they could raise their families. We're gonna kind of call them today the silent majority only because there's hundreds of em in the area. They have unanimously, as I have spoken to them and I know most of em by name, they have said unanimously that they oppose this casino. This is disastrous for them. The bishops and the elders and the fathers and the mothers which is almost heard of that they would speak out have signed petitions from each one of their communities and as I say it's very unusual for them to get involved in local politics. But they have chosen to come here and speak out today through my voice and through their letters to let you know of the great concern that they have about building a casino in Tyre. The Amish you see don't travel like you and I do. They use horses and buggies and they go to work with those horses and buggies every day. And they go get groceries. And on Sundays they go by large groups down all the rural roads with horse and buggy to church and they go every week. The people that live in the community know that and they drive a little slower. But the people that would come to a casino wouldn't know that because they don't live in the area and they don't understand what it's like to go a little slower and to let a buggy get by. Or to move around a buggy. You see if you go too fast you'll upset the horse and the horse will put the buggy in the ditch and somebody will be seriously injured or maybe even killed. Now because they feel so strongly about this matter some of these elders and many others have come here today to help you in making the right decision and not to proceed with this proposal to build a casino in the quiet little farming town of Tyre. Now I'm gonna read you a couple of letters if I have the time.

Kevin Law: You've got fifty seconds.

James Balch: I'm sorry?

Kevin Law: Fifty seconds for a couple of letters.

James Balch: Ok thank you sir. One of em begins, and this is the Bishop. It says. Honorable men we the humble servants of our lord ask that you committee would hear our plea. As a peace loving people that a casino on 414 and across the road from an Amish farm not be built at this location. There's many reasons to not have a casino so close to our people. We will not undertake the list of moral issues but will lean on your good judgment in this matter. And it was undersigned by all of the people unanimously in that community. Can I read another one?

Kevin Law: You're out of time.

James Balch: Ok thank you.

Dennis Glazor: I have a question. We have some questions for ya.

James Balch: Yes sir.

Kevin Law: Go ahead.

Dennis Glazor: You said it would be disastrous for their community and that they had grave concerns and I hear the concern about the traffic and the speed of with which people might use the same roads.

James Balch: Yes sir.

Dennis Glazor: What are the others? And can you just describe them very quickly.

James Balch: Well one of them, the most important one is the buggies on the road because see the children go to school every day by buggy.

Dennis Glazor: I got that. I want to know what else there is on your short list.

James Balch: Well that was the main one, is that the danger involved with them. In that community because it's so many rural roads.

Kevin Law: How close is the Amish community to the proposed Lago Casino?

James Balch: Thousand feet?

Kevin Law: A thousand feet, alright. And what's your role, what's that?

(Someone in the audience): Less than a thousand feet. Was at two hundred feet. Right across the road.

James Balch: Ok yeah.

Kevin Law: And how far is the Amish community from where we are today?

James Balch: I would say approximately fifty miles? Fifty miles north of here. Just about north of here yep.

Kevin Law: They didn't come by horse or buggy did they?

James Balch: What's that?

Kevin Law: They didn't come by, did they come by horse and buggy today?

James Balch: No.

Kevin Law: That's what I thought.

James Balch: We made sure that they had transportation to come here so that they could come and speak up to you.

Dennis Glazor: I appreciate very much the effort that you made to come. Has there been any discussions with the casino applicant about mitigating the concerns?

James Balch: I believe they have, yes.

Dennis Glazor: What was spoken about and how'd it come out?

James Balch: I wasn't there and I couldn't tell you what their results were but I know they were totally opposed to it and they spoke to the people and they didn't listen to them.

Dennis Glazor: I'm asking whether they talked to the applicant about the possibility of mitigating some of the traffic and speed concerns. Whether that was taken up.

James Balch: I couldn't tell you that exactly but Jim could maybe answer that question for you. Jim Dolly.

Dennis Glazor: I'd like to hear the answer, if he can.

Jim Dolly: I'd have to get back to you on that.

Kevin Law: And I just have one more question. Did, did somebody pay for their travel to today's hearing?

James Balch: Yes I believe somebody did.

Kevin Law: Who's we?

(Someone in the audience): They paid for it.

Kevin Law: They paid for it themselves?

James Balch: They paid for it themselves, yes.

Kevin Law: Ok that's what I'm asking.

James Balch: Oh, yes sir.

Kevin Law: Ok.

James Balch: They paid for their own transportation. They had somebody drive them but they paid for the gas..

Kevin Law: Ok thank you very much.

Dennis Glazer: And with other applicants that we've seen in the past couple of days there've been campaigns run for and against and when something is part of a campaign perhaps it is less heart-felt and so that's why we asked those questions.

(Somebody from the audiences): What's the answer I'm sorry?

Dennis Glazor: I think we did hear an answer.

Kevin Law: No we got the answer.

Dennis Glazer: Yeah.

Kevin Law: The answer was no.

Dennis Glazer: Yeah.

Kevin Law: They paid for it themselves. That's fine.

Dennis Glazer: Yeah.

Kevin Law: Nice job, thank you very much. Dagmar Nearpass.

Dagmar Nearpass: Good afternoon.

Kevin Law: Hello.

Dagmar Nearpass: Thank you for preventing me to speak. The issue of habitat and wildlife protection is extremely important to me. On June 20, 2014 the gaming commission issued a document entitled SEQRA Environmental Impact Statements. In part the commission is involved, is an involved agency in the SEQRA process and is such provides the following guidance with respect to the environment, environmental impact statements each applicant is expected to complete. You expect an EIS to be prepared among other items which you expect to be covered. You list as number seven: protected habitats and species. The Town of Tyre at the urging of Wilmorite, excuse me, chose to completely fast-track this process passing a negative SEQRA resolution after only a month long process and two hours of discussion. Part three of SEQRA was not completed until a month after the negative declaration was made. In addition to finding that they believed there would be absolutely no major impacts the town board concluded there are no threaten to endangered species near this proposed site in Tyre. Never consulting or complying with Federal Endangered Species Regulations. The entire watershed of Tyre lies within the Cayuga Lake and Clyde River watersheds. White Brook, which runs adjacent to the proposed casino site and bisects my farm into which the proposed casino storm retention ponds are to overflow drains into the Montezuma Wildlife Refuge. Rare and threatened species are often seen at Montezuma. The newly created Seneca Meadows Wetland just three miles to the south is already attracting rare species. I know for a fact that the federal endangered Bog Turtle is found about three miles from the site. The possibility most definitely exists for some rare or endangered animals to be bound in the very adjacent wetlands to which White Brook flows which are private and have likely not been surveyed. An environment impact study has not been done. According to Seneca County's own environmental conservation plan dated June 14th, what is done on the land ends up in the waterways. Thus the whole catchment for watershed needs to be considered and therefor everyone who lives in the watershed has a stake in its health. How can a project of this magnitude and duration not have one significant impact on this rural wetland watershed area. This is an enormous disservice to us who reside not only in Tyre but everywhere the watershed provides wildlife habitat recreation opportunities and drinking water. Our watersheds, wetlands, and waterways are much more viable to give economy to our region than a casino will ever be. And I have an attachment showing the casino location and where all the adjacent wetlands and Montezuma are.

Kevin Law: Thank you Dagmar. Laurel Shoemaker.

Laurel Shoemaker: Good afternoon.

Kevin Law: Hi.

Laurel Shoemaker: Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Laurel Shoemaker. I am a wife of one husband and a mother of nine.

Dennis Glazer: You only get one you know. At a time.

Laurel Shoemaker: Our family resides in a neighboring town where the proposed site of the Wilmorite Casino Lago is hoping to be. I am strongly opposed to this project as it will undermine not only Tyre's but the surrounding area's economy. Our area is known for its small locally owned shops and restaurants that will be harmed should the casino be sited in Tyre. The Wilmorite Casino has romanticized in the Italian Villa being an oasis in the Finger Lakes. When you think of a resort destination what sights and sounds and smells come to mind? Well typically a dumb, a truck stop, and freeway would be at the forefront of your mind. If you were to Google resort destination view you'd come upon something quite different than what the reality of the proposed casino in Tyre would provide. If you haven't ever been there it would be a hokey for you to take a ride out and see the site because the picture that I'm gonna present might not do the view justice. My exhibit A, this photo has been provided by a professional phantom two drone. I have copies of it that I'll hand out later. This view was taken from a location and height from the top floor of the hotel as specified in the latest plans provided by the applicant. Going from top to bottom, the dump affectionately known as the Seneca Meadows Landfill, truck stop, and the New York State Throughway running along. Across the 414 where the driveway will be for the proposed Italian Villa is one of several Amish farms in the area that was referenced earlier. It's a dairy farm there. These sites and attractions are not characteristic of the destination. This would be a casino, strategically placed to draw from the New York State Throughway, every vehicle that would otherwise turn right and enter our growing finger lakes region. Which according to the applicant's presentation is, quote "the third most visited region in New York State" unquote. The folks coming off the throughway will be drawn into Lago, the Lago Casino and Restaurants and keeping them there as stated in the Town of Tyre's CGR report page twenty two and I quote "the casinos business model relies on retaining customers on site" end quote. This may very well be the casino business model but it's not the model that has been presented at the economic boom to our region. This capture of customers will come at the expense of everyone in our region but especially the people of Tyre. Also presented in the applicants video on September 8th was quote "this project isn't designed to cannibalize other gaming operators, far to the contrary it's designed to grow their region" end quote. Yet during the same presentation this applicant acknowledged that fifty one percent of gambler losses would be taken from existing facilities in our already saturated casino and racino corridor. In addition, time and time again the concerned citizens of Tyre were told that traffic would not be an issue due to the fact that most of the traffic would be off the throughway and back on. Well which is it? Economic catalyst or retained customer, they can't have it both ways. The citizens of Tyre and the surrounding areas are standing strong against this breach into the agricultural zone, protective rural and agricultural heritage they enjoy now and intend to enjoy in the years to come. Without being able to expand as a result to the fortitude and community of casino-free adjacent property owners, this project fails the destination test. With the demise of so many so called destination Atlantic style casinos please do not let Tyre become the victim of what would be yet another failed experiment. I

respectfully request the idea of Lago in Tyre must go. As you consider who should receive this gaming destination, just say no.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Nelson Aquilano.

Nelson Aquilano: Good afternoon. My name is Nelson Aquilano and I'm the director of the Council on Alcoholism and Addictions on the Finger Lakes. I'm also a prevention professional with a special designation in problem gambling and I was previously a member of the New York State Oasis Problem Gambling Policy Steering Committee. We are also a host for the only meetings of gamblers anonymous in the finger lakes region. I do know gambling in fact from the inside out. And I do know the Seneca Community. I've had an office in Seneca Falls for the past thirty years and have served on a number of organizations such as the Seneca Partnership for Children and Families. Today I am speaking on behalf of the families and loved ones, the spouses and the children of compulsive gamblers. Those sovereign voices that suffer so much that have lost so much. And it is from this base of understanding that I state that I am firmly opposed to the proposed casino being placed in Seneca County. Gambling is a toxic and predatory industry that preys upon the most vulnerable of our citizens. Many say it is inherently a parasitic industry that feeds primarily off the host community and all communities within a fifty mile range. With casinos, gambling spreads like a cancer, like an epidemic leaving broken lives, broken families, and broken communities in its path. I casino can be cold and cruel and research clearly demonstrates that is one of the most destructive dynamics that can be introduced into a community. Gambling leads to lost homes, broken families, low savings accounts, a dramatic increase in crime and is strongly correlated with a rise in mental illness. Compulsive gamblers have a suicide rate of twenty percent. The highest rate in any of the addictions. Furthermore, problem gambling also effects the spouses and I said the children of the problem gamblers. Some communities that tourists tripled after the introduction of casinos. Others reported an explosion in domestic violence. But by then it's too late. Once a casino is introduced into a community they can't rebirth the trend and control the increase in gambling addiction and negative consequences. Seneca County has a great number of needs, academic underachievement, single parent families, and according to the Seneca Public Health Assessment has a number of other mental, emotional, and other behavioral issues that need to be addressed, such as depression. So at the same time the county is preparing a county health improvement plan for community prevention of health and wellness, we now have the introduction of a casino which will have a yet greater direct negative impact upon the quality of life on Seneca County residents. I object to a casino here because it will negate all our local efforts to heighten health and will only accentuate family dysfunction and accelerate child abuse, domestic violence, and poverty to new levels. Second, I object to a casino in Seneca County because the citizens never asked for it. When Laurel County loudly rejected a casino, Onondaga County loudly rejected a casino and when you add in the votes for proposition one from the five central Finger Lakes counties you will see that between all seven counties proposition one failed. The people in this region soundly defeated proposition one. We did not want legalized gambling much less a casino here. The proposed Tyre location is not for the people. It was a fabricated and manufactured ploy by outside developers who have self-interest at heart rather than the interest of the people. A casino is a powerful risk factor that will only further jeopardize the family unit and healthy

community lifestyle we're trying to build. And the ultimate cost of broken families and disintegrated communities from gambling never even close to justifying it as a means to raise revenue. I have never seen one study that says that gambling is a protective factor for positive youth development. Nor a study that says that gambling supports health families. Nor a study that concludes that casinos build strong communities. In fact overwhelmingly the research is exactly the opposite in all three cases. The primary negative impacts of a casino on the host community and the entire fifty mile radius, the entire Finger Lakes region if we place in Tyre, is significant. Proposition one said you may introduce casinos into a community, not that you must. A casino in Tyre is contraindicated and there is more than enough argument here to support that. I ask that you listen to the national gambling impact study. The definitive report on gambling that called for a moratorium of gambling and that you deny the respective application in Tyre. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Nelson. Thank you. So would your opinions, would you oppose every casino proposed for the, that we're discussing here today?

Nelson Aquilano: Every casino yes. I can only represent Seneca County today but yes absolutely.

Kevin Law: Ok thank you. Now we're back to the list of the folks who signed up today. Rosanne Pinker.

Rosanne Pinker: Good afternoon.

Dennis Glazer: Hi.

Rosanne Pinker: I'm Rosanne Sol Pinker and I'm the president and owner of Rosanne Sol Advertising Agency in Binghamton and I'm here to talk about Tioga Downs. I started my full-service advertising agency in 1985 and I became a certified New York State and will be a woman owned business enterprise and I'm very proud of that and I'm very proud of my relationship with Tioga Downs. Over the years I have to say I've had the pleasure of working with many clients including Dicks Sporting Goods. We actually opened their first seven stores outside of Binghamton. But none of these relationships with Dicks or my other clients were ever as rewarding as our relationship with Tioga Downs. We joined the team at Tioga Downs in early 2008 and shortly afterwards we started doing business with Vernon Downs their sister casino and we learned a lot about casino operations and harness racing. But most importantly we learned what a wonderful organization this is to work for and what a great team Tioga Downs has put together. From the owner Jeff Goral to the president Tom Osiecki to Linn Redder and the whole marketing department. We have found solid professionals who are so dedicated and so proud of their work. And we're proud of the success we have had in promoting many of Tioga Down's events. In fact, this past may we celebrated Derby Fest 7. Our Derby Fest event kicks off the first day of racing at Tioga Downs and we're in our seventh year and this past May we had over eighteen thousand people in attendance at Derby Fest 7. It really has become the social event of the season and everyone looks forward to it. But we quickly found out that Tioga Downs has a lot more than just promotions or horseracing. There are local bands, there are tribute shows, there

is food and beverage specials, there's a sports bar, and there are concerts with some of the biggest names in the music industry and just last month we had a sellout concert for Trace Atkins. Over forty five hundred people. But there's another side to Tioga Downs, they are great community partners. They help their Tioga neighbors recover from two floods. They support local farmers by buying locally grown produce. They buy New York State wines and craft beers and they promote them. They work with local businesses, such as ours. They donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to the food bank and countless other local charities and they hold annual benefit concerts with all proceeds going to the southern tier veterans. Just this past summer they brought the airshow back to Broome County. We had not had an airshow in over five years. And this November they will bring a quarter of a million dollar Winter Fest to our region and that will bring a completely new dynamic to this area, this southern tier area. Clearly this variety of activities has kept our agency busy and I have to just say that seven years ago Tioga Downs could have hired any advertising agency in the United States but they chose a local agency in Broome County because of our local knowledge because they respect local knowledge and they they set about giving us the background and the respect and chemistry that we needed to learn the casino business and now really it has become our business. But I want to say one more thing as an end note. Doing all the media strategies and placement for Tioga Downs and Vernon Downs I know all the feeder markets. So for Tioga Downs we're talking about Binghamton, Elmira, Ithaca, Cortland, and of course North East Pennsylvania. We're very close to Pennsylvania, For Vernon Downs there's Syracuse and the Utica Rome Communities. As part of our planning we were provided access to a piece of research by Dr. Barrow of the University of Massachusetts...

Kevin Law: Sorry. Time's up.

Rosanne Pinker: Oh, well I thank you for this time. It's been my pleasure and an honor to talk on behalf of Tioga Downs.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

Rosanne Pinker: Thank you gentlemen.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Folks just, it seems like a lot of people just came in since we made announcements twice earlier today so I'll just repeat it again. We have a lot of speakers. We may not even get to all of them today. But we're limited to five minutes and at four minutes you'll see the red light go on which means you have one minute left so you have to wrap it up. We have to cut you off at five minutes because we're just gonna cut in and prevent one of your neighbors or somebody, one of your colleagues from speaking. So no disrespect it's just what it is. Five minutes and that's the most you get. Jim Bush.

Dennis Glazer: You're on the clock.

Jim Bush: Good afternoon gentlemen. My name is Jim Bush. I'm an auctioneer from Tyre, New York. Been an auctioneer there for over forty years. Been a lifetime of the Town of Tyre. We

own approximately two hundred acres in the Town of Tyre. So as far as the Town of Tyre, we know the Town of Tyre inside and out. Mennonite, our Amish families, there's five families in the Town of Tyre. That's how many we have. Now as far as the Largo Casino, I'm a hundred percent for. It's got everything going for it. You're between two cities. You're between the third largest city in New York, which is Rochester. The fifth largest city is Syracuse which, like you know that's three hundred and fifty thousand people that this casino's gonna attract. Now if you go through the Town of Tyre on a regular basis, I'm talking main drags because they don't go down the side roads. In the summertime you see a lot of Ontario, Canada license plates. Now a lot of these people that go to the outlet center and then they leave. One day. Or they might go to the wineries. One day. Now this Largo resort area, this is more than a casino, this is a resort. There's hotels, if you wanna build a two hundred and seven room hotel and there's restaurants there. There's, and I even talked to some Mennonite people in Rose that's gonna, that is willing to go down there with their baked goods and their and their I guess he's gonna have some kind of a little convention thing where I guess all the farmers can sell their stuff, and I was surprised that they said they would be down there with their baked goods. And you know this is just a hundred percent win win win for the Town of Tyre, you get off the throughway. You know oh minutes down the road. This is seconds down the road. You know so people are gonna come off the freeway, make a left hand turn, boom boom, second hand turn, seconds. I'm talking a football field down the road, alright. And you know this is, it's just a win win win situation. I guess that's all I have to say. Thank you.

Dennis Glazer: You got two minutes left Jim.

Jim Bush: That's ok.

Dennis Glazer: Going once, going twice.

Jim Bush: (incomprehensible slew of words). I was gonna say it's like spaghetti and meatballs but I didn't know if you like spaghetti and meatballs.

Dennis Glazer: Thanks.

Jim Bush: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Yes. Thank you Jim. Lisa Cartledge.

Dennis Glazer: Come on forward Lisa. Can't wait to hear this one.

Joe Moody: Good afternoon I'm Joe Moody, director of Economic Development for the Town of Union and I'm here to support the traditions at the Glenn Casino. One of the...

Kevin Law: First up, where's Lisa? What happened with Lisa?

Dennis Glazer: What'd you do with Lisa?

Joe Moody: She decided to come a little later.

Kevin Law: No I mean, did she ask you to speak in her place?

Joe Moody: Yes.

Kevin Law: Oh ok. So you should say that. Ok thank you.

Joe Moody: So anyways well I'm speaking on the Town of Union Economic Development, I'm Joe Moody.

Kevin Law: The town of which?

Joe Moody: The Town of Union Economic Development Department which is where Traditions Casino would be located.

Kevin Law: Ok.

Joe Moody: Central aspect of selecting a site is to positively impact the greatest number of existing business and area residents. And that exactly, that's exactly what the Traditions proposed casino does. The population core of the southern tier in the Town of Union is fifty six thousand two hundred and ninety eight residents. We got another sixty four thousand residents in Binghamton and in Vestal. They're all within ten minutes of the proposed casino Traditions. That makes up more than half of the population of Broome County within ten minutes. Which no doubt is needed to draw and make the Traditions Casino or a casino in New York State successful. It will have to draw on that community. One of the other things is economic impact. Businesses all on the route and surrounding area should have the ability to benefit from a casino. Traditions delivers on such because of its location and urban setting, proximity a number of such businesses. They're forced to have to go by these businesses that's why you'll see that there's much support from the local businesses for Traditions Casino. Primary question, the gaming commission as you know has to ask itself, will the Traditions proposal provide the economic foundation and financial opportunity to positively affect the greatest number of residents existing in start-up businesses and give New York State the revenues it is expecting form a southern tier casino? I believe Traditions does that, ok. I've looked at many business plans over the years, ok. I know that location location location is very important for a business. Traditions gives you that major aspect, location. I believe they're gonna be able to meet their goals, not gonna go over details of what those goals are with you have those in front of you.

Kevin Law: We've heard em.

Joe Moody: Yep you've heard em. So I won't go over that. I'm not gonna go over the negative aspects of the other proposals. But I will tell you that I've looked at their business plan. I've

looked at their projections and I believe that this is the best opportunity that you have is to support Traditions Casino in the southern tier. And that's my opinion.

Kevin Law: Thank you very much.

Joe Moody: Alright, that's all I have to say.

Kevin Law: That's great, well thank you.

Joe Moody: Thank you.

Nancy Bush: Hi, my name is Nancy Bush and I thank you for giving me the chance to speak with you today. First I have a letter here from a former town supervisor of the Town of Tyre who she has asked me to read this letter and we can submit it. And then I have remarks of my own. The letter states. My name is Patsy Amadon and I have been a Tyre resident for forty seven years and served as the supervisor for twenty one years. First I want to thank Supervisor McGreevy, the Tyre Town Board, the planning board, and all other town officials for working so diligently on this casino issues. They have persevered even through the negative barbs that have been said to them and about them. I am unable to attend today's meeting so I have given permission for my letter to be read in public. There is sixty one plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the Town of Tyre in which thirty of these plaintiffs did not vote in the last election or are not registered or live in another township. It was said that our town voted against the casino, but what about the people who didn't vote? They should have voiced their opinions at the polls and not waited until now. The comprehensive plan wants to keep Tyre rural but at the same time fifty six percent felt commercial development would be good for Tyre and sixty six percent were for development if it was kept near existing businesses, like McGee's Corners. Many felt Petro was good for Tyre. When Petro first started there was opposition but soon these questions were answered and many were unfounded. Not everything is perfect but Petro worked with us. There is a right to farm law when you purchase land in the area where farming takes place you sign a paper stating you understand this. This is beneficial for the seller and buyer. Someone told the Mennonites and Amish that if a casino came in they would not be allowed to spread manure on their fields. It was just another scare tactic and totally not true. There are only five Amish farms in Tyre. They were told that if the casino comes in they would have to leave. Added to this was the threat of immanent domain. This refers to property being taken from land owners. This is government intervening because they want certain land for their projects. It's not gonna happen. The churches in Tyre have spoken against a casino. So have some of the churches in the rest of the county. Even though the churches have bingo, raffles, and other forms of gaming. It is good to have support for reasons given but I believe the residences of Tyre should be the ones that vocalize about whether or not to have a casino. Stating that over twenty five Tyre area farmers signed a letter is not correct since there not twenty five farmers in Tyre. The numbers quoted on the casino website are highly inflated because they do not represent Tyre residents only that includes area residents. In addition I feel that the Amish and Mennonites are being used as scapegoats. The population of Tyre is nine hundred and eighty one and I do not hear anything about the rest of the population which could be effected by a casino. There are five Amish

families in Tyre and sixteen Mennonites families. The casino website says two thousand seven hundred and sixteen adults and five thousand seven hundred and seventy five children oppose a casino in Tyre. How can this be when there is only nine hundred and eighty one people living in Tyre? Again it's reaching too far outside of Tyre to come up with these statistics. There were a total of six hundred and fifty eight signatures on the anti-petition. Now make the adjustments. There were eighty six duplicate signatures. There's a hundred and seventy seven, not even from second county. There's other issues like no signatures, no addresses, they're illegible, forty three of those. And not from immediate region, eighteen plus miles away, ninety one of em. There were six hundred and fifty eight original signatures and that comes down to a total of two hundred and sixty one. Now look at a different petition. Total number of Tyre resident signatures on casino petition is two hundred and eight. Total after duplicate signatures, now we're down to a hundred and sixty seven. When the outlet mall was built people had the same concerns about traffic, crime, and farms that would be lost. This did not happen. The outlet has three and a half million customers a year and they're happy that they're here because of the sales tax, shopping, other businesses have come in, and jobs. I looked at generational family farms and I could only find four of them. These farms have been sold off and families have moved. The farms still exist but are not handed down from one generation to the next but they have been sold to Amish and Mennonites. We're glad that they still farmed. Now you may not agree with my information but I have looked up and researched it. Now it is your turn to take all the facts and decide what you wanna do. Some have told me that they would rather pay more taxes than have a casino. This might be true for some but those on fixed incomes would be hurt badly.

Kevin Law: Time's up. You can submit your letter. Thank you.

Nancy Bush: Thank you. Bob Masorini.

Bob Masorini: Good afternoon gentlemen. My name is Bob Masorini. I'm with Lost Kingdom Brewery and Firehouse Distillery in Ovid, New York which is six miles south of Miranda Cheese which was up here at nine o'clock this morning.

Dennis Glazer: You guys couldn't get together and do a little beer and cheese?

Bob Masorini: I've been here, I thought I'd get up earlier. I've heard a lot of things. I had everything planned but I heard so much recently that, some of it seems amazing you know. First off we emphasize the negative. Seneca County needs jobs. Broome County needs jobs. Tioga Downs needs jobs. My county's worse than yours. You know what, the Finger Lakes are awesome. I wanna take a different tact. The Finger Lakes are growing. We're one of those new companies that repurposed a building. Took an old firehouse and municipal building that was empty for almost a decade and converted it to a brewery and a distillery. We see the synergy of that happening more and more with the Lago Resort and Casino coming in and that's why we're here to support it. It is a tremendous opportunity for the area. It'll take the tourism that we have seasonally, as it's already been mentioned, and really expand upon it to year round tourism. Not only that, I've heard about we need to bring in other manufacturing jobs and that would be great. But the thing is this is an environmentally friendly business. We don't have to worry about

ground water contamination or what's gonna happen if something explodes in Seneca Lake or any of the other projected projects that are out there right now. This is a positive impact to the community and to the area. It's also gonna allow for extended stays. For you know help the bed and breakfasts in the area because people now have both wineries to go to, areas to see, and another attraction to go to. At the same time they're gonna end up getting extended stays because of the fact we have that synergy. There are other things to do here. There is the beauty of the area. There is the wine trails. The beer trails. The distillery trails, which is what we're based upon. Overall I think this comes down to a business decision as to what thing gives the greatest benefit to the area. What's gonna bring the most money to the state tax wise. What's gonna bring the most money to the communities. What's gonna bring the most money to the most, you know, jobs to the area and finally what's gonna help most of the businesses. And out of all of them Lago is what's going to do it. If it were up to me as a consumer and I had to pick something in region five as to where to go, I'd go to the Finger Lakes hands down. On that note I thank you.

Dennis Glazer: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Gary Schlegel.

Gary Schlegel: Good afternoon. I'm an owner of Magee Country Diner which is located a quarter a mile from the proposed site south. My name is Gary Schlegel. As a business owner in the Town of Tyre I am a huge supporter of the Wilmorite Corp and Lago that will promote not only businesses in this Town of Tyre but in the surrounding area. New business not only generates jobs for the county but also revenue that it needs for the county, town, and state. In 2004 I was at a town board meeting to support Petro Truck Stop, my neighbor, and the only business between me and Lago at this point because I knew that it would not only generate more jobs but also more revenue for the town. Not to mention the traffic for my business. The casino which will be built by a very reputable company, Wilmorite Corp, which is completely backed and supported by numerous counties throughout New York State. This casino will not only bring eighteen hundred jobs, which brings me to my concerns, that one of the meetings I attended and my question was, will the jobs be drawn locally? And of course they will be. They will all be applied; when they apply they are trained and oriented on the site. The contractors will be supported locally also. The revenue alone for the Town of Tyre will be astronomical. Taxes will be lowered, more jobs, more revenue for New York State. So what's the opposition? Traffic, noise, land, social impact. Never have I seen a corporation the size of Wilmorite be so consciences, caring, and neighborhood friendly to a businesses and business friendly to a small county such as Seneca. They are going above and beyond to make things right for the residents and business owners respectively. As a restaurant owner in the Town of Tyre I serve a lot of patrons and I talk to them about their thoughts on a casino. And to be quite honest I've heard very little negativity. But the little I've heard that some people feel the property taxes won't come down which I think is ludicrous, and the Town of Tyre alone will be tripling the amount of revenue that's coming into the town. Not to mention the county. Others feel that social impact of the casino will be causing people to spend money they don't have. Let's face it if that's an issue, they're already doing it. Now here's a breakdown of the petition that was signed over the last winter. Which was already said up here before but six hundred fifty eight signatures that were

acquired, eighty six of them were duplicates. A hundred and seventy seven of them were not even from Seneca County. And it goes on. The thing is is that these are the same people that told me I might as well shut my doors when Petro Truck Stop was built. I've been in business twenty years now side-by-side with Petro and all along supported any businesses that were being developed in the Town of Tyre and Seneca County. The casino is a two hundred room hotel, the restaurants and other businesses in it will produce seventy eight point nine million dollars in taxes that will be distributed throughout Town of Tyre Seneca County and New York State. They're predicting an average of nine hundred people a day that will spill over to the businesses in this county. Hotels, restaurants, wineries. Business generates business. That turns revenue, jobs, and lower taxes. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

Dennis Glazer: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Folks we have a two minute break and then at three o'clock is Peter Hankin will be first. Ok we're at three o'clock. We have four hours. We are wrapping up at 7 pm and so yeah it's unlikely that we're going to get to everybody on the list so if everybody could just be quick and to the point that'd be great because then we then we'll get to as many as we can.

Dennis Glazer: We've heard the arguments on all sides. We've heard many of em before today. We've heard all of em today. So rather than just repeat, if you can come up and say I'm opposed because of this, I'm in favor because of that instead of doing it in a long version it'll let your neighbors and others get their say as well.

Kevin Law: With that, Peter Hankin.

Peter Hankin: Thank you very much. Good afternoon. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to address the Traditions casino application and your board. Firstly I know of no one that if the Traditions is granted a casino license whose lives will be more dramatically and more negatively impacted than my wife and myself. The proposed casino's main parking lot will become the main focal point of all the windows on the east side of our house. The beautiful hillside will become a tourist parking lot with all-night lighting and constant stream of headlights poking into my kitchen, dining room, and living room. Car alarms and horns honking will happen with great regularity. My front door is five hundred feet from this proposed parking lot. In 2007 we bought our townhouse from Mr. Welsh. We bought into the concept of well-built town homes and scenic vistas of the Susquehanna Valley and an executive golf course. What used to be the executive golf course is now slated for parking two to four thousand cars for outside concerts and is three hundred feet from my back deck. This will only occur every other weekend in the summer. The two parking lots can in no way be construed as scenically pleasing. And by the way, the so-called executive golf courses disappeared over the past four years. I think there's something immoral about intriguing people to buy these high-end town houses then actively becoming the instrument of ruining their views, their quality of life, and their property values. This is classic bait and switch. Property values according to Mr. Walsh will be enhanced.

I submit that anecdotal evidence shows the opposite is true. We have two different sets of friends that are currently in the process of moving back to our area. Both families have looked into the vacant town houses. Both like the concept and the unites. But neither had any interest as long as the casino next door was a possibility. And as for the allure of the casino next door, the for sales signs tell all. There are currently seven town homes located within a hundred and fifty yards of our property that are going vacant for buyers. Some owners have dropped their prices dramatically. No interest. The casino has become toxic for Eagle Drive homeowners who don't want to put up with the hassle of living next to a modern day carnival without the rides. The Traditions presentation mentioned twenty thous, twenty seven thousand supporters for the casino. I would urge you to seek verification of that number and how it was arrived at. Every homeowner on Eagle Drive with the exception of two, that's twenty six versus two, is adamantly opposed to the casino. Everyone I come in contact with with the exception of people who work for the Walsh's or do business with them who live in Enville are against the casino. The road going by Traditions is Watson Boulevard and it's the main conduit to Wegmans, the mall, Binghamton, both colleges, and both hospitals for the residents of Enville. The Traditions Outdoor Entertainment Venue Watson Boulevard will be closed for four to five hours every other summer Saturday evening. For us to go a different way to one of the hospitals would have several miles and minutes. Lives could be lost when the sick can't be rushed to the hospital in times of need. I conclude my remarks by saying the casino does not belong at Traditions in the middle of a neighborhood. We appreciate the opportunity to make our concerns known to your board and finally we currently have a depressed residential real estate market and hopefully you will not further contribute to it. And if all the promised significant job creation occurred at Tioga Downs instead of Traditions the job opportunity would still be there for Broome residents as well as those of Tioga and the proximity to Broome's retail shopping and restaurants is closer than that of Elmira with not much in-between. Thank you.

Dennis Glazer: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Peter when did you buy your townhouse?

Peter Hankin: 2007 November.

Kevin Law: Were there like brochures? How many units are there?

Peter Hankin: There are, it's either thirty or thirty two.

Kevin Law: Thirty? Was there a brochure to market the...

Peter Hankin: I'm sorry?

Kevin Law: Was there some type of brochure to market the townhome?

Peter Hankin: Yes.

Kevin Law: And then it advertised the views for the Susquehanna?

Peter Hankin: Yes.

Kevin Law: Yeah? Do you still have copies of those brochures in your closing files?

Peter Hankin: Yes, my wife's gonna give you them.

Kevin Law: Ok thank you.

Peter Hankin: Thank you.

Dennis Glazer: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Next is Maureen Hankin.

Maureen Hankin: Thank you for allowing me to express my concerns about the casino proposal for the Traditions at the Glenn in the Town of Union. I am relieved that you have a more appropriate proposal to choose from. My main objection is that local casino does not belong on a historic site sandwiched between two residential neighborhoods and is adjacent to a nature preserve. The IBM historical setting will be overtaken by the casino. The mansion was the home of Thomas J. Watson, renowned president of IBM. The I love New York State website lists the traditions at the Glenn Resort and Conference Center as a scenic and historic destination. The existing Traditions at the Glenn building is eligible to be listed as a historic landmark. The location of this proposed local casino is directly adjacent to two residential neighborhoods, Fairmont Park and the Homestead Townhouse Development. The IBM Glenn Nature Preserve comprises of over two hundred acres located in the Town of Union and is also adjacent to the proposed casino property. The IBM Glenn is owned by the Waterman Conservation Education Center. The Watermen Board Members do not support the construction of this casino and states it does not mesh with their mission and goals. One mission statement that clashes with this proposal is that it will not help provide a refuge which is quiet and safe for both wildlife and humans. The local community is opposed to the location of this casino. When we voted in 2013 we did not know the Walsh family planned to put a casino in the middle of our community. The 2014 assembly woman Donna Leparto's survey demonstrated that fifty seven percent of the three thousand respondents did not want a casino in their community and the majority were from the Town of Union. In addition petitions with over five hundred signatures have been submitted to the Town of Union against the development of a casino at Traditions. Most importantly, the host community, the Town of Union, has not been able to approve the preliminary casino plan because there are many unmitigated issues from the SEQRA process. The traffic study has been the biggest hurdle. Local and state government entities have not come to agreement that the proposed mitigations are actually achievable. Indian artifacts found on the casino site have not been completely mitigated. As per SEQRA page six the phase three process must be completed with approval from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation, and the Onondaga Indian Nation. This mitigation must be completed before the main access road

to the casino is constructed. A point of clarification is needed on the New York State Gaming Commissions Website where under the application materials and presentations tab the Traditions at the Glenn municipality is identified as Johnson City and their resolution is attached. The Town of Union is the host community and should be identified correctly and their resolution has not been passed. Lastly, the proposed Traditions Casino site has no room for future expansion and will cannibalize existing nearby casinos. After thorough review of the Traditions Proposal and with all the unmitigated issues, I am confident that you will conclude that the Traditions of the Glen is an inappropriate location for a local casino and a better option does exist. So I have a packet of information for the Board to support my stance and the packet also includes documentation from the last speaker, my husband. And information about the brochure is in here.

Kevin Law: That's in there? Thank you. Thank you Maureen. Next up is Chris Fitch. Chris Fitch. Betty Steele.

Betty Steele: Good afternoon Gaming Board Members. I am Betty Steele a 30 year resident of the village of Waterloo and previously 14 year resident of the town of Geneva. Both areas close neighbors to the town of Tyre the proposed site of the Wilmer Wright Casino. Having knowledge of the joy of residing in a rural area I believe people choose to reside in a rural area, rural setting for specific reasons which include a quiet, peaceful and serene environment. I believe the proposed Wilmer Wright Casino will negatively impact the residents living in very close proximity to the proposed casino by destroying their ability to maintain their chosen lifestyle. I believe noise pollution will result from the dramatic increase of traffic in and out of the casino. Also, the potential for an increase in crime in and around the casino may result in frequent need for intervention by law enforcement agencies with sirens and lights blaring that will definitely disturb the peace of the surrounding area. Land pollution from the expansive casino itself with a large parking area and the parking garage is certain to negatively impact nearby resident's ability to maintain their quiet, peaceful and serene atmosphere as well. I believe the proposed \$450 million Wilmer Wright Casino, the most expensive proposal does not fit in the rural setting of the small town of Tyre. In fact will appear out of place. Unfortunately, the Wilmer Wright Casino will not be the end of development for the area as proposals are ready to be submitted to the Tyre town board for low-income housing developments and other commercial ventures. The quiet peaceful and serene lifestyle sought by nearby residents will cease to exist forever. I realize that change is necessary for survival in today's economic environment, however I believe not all changes are beneficial. With the closing of casinos in other areas, 4 in Atlantic City alone this year, I believe gaming facilities are unable to produce increased revenue for a long period of time. I believe our area is also saturated with nearby gaming facilities including Finger Lakes Gaming and Racetrack in Farmington, and Turning Stone Resort and Casino in Verona. I believe gaming patrons and revenues will not sustain all sites causing closure of one or more sites resulting in strain on local, county and state taxes. When voicing concerns about an issue, I feel it is important to present an alternative solution. My suggestion would be to select a location for a casino that already has experience with the negative impact of gaming, for example gambling addiction, and where close neighbors have

experienced living near a gaming facility. I believe the ideal location for a casino would be the real southern tier region near the PA border. Thank you for your time.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Joan Richardson. Joan? Okay back to the list of people who signed up today. Ethan Poole.

Ethan Poole: Thank you. My name is Ethan Poole, I am the sales director and brand manager for Apple Country Spirits which is a distillery in Williamson, New York in Wayne County. Wayne County, our location is about 45 minutes from the proposed Lago site and we want to express our interest or our position as supporting the Lago resort. As you heard before, there's plenty of people that said there will be an increase in jobs for the construction. Increase in jobs for the workers at the place. It will increase tourism in the Finger Lakes. We heard from Wayne County people before that Wayne County supports the Lago resort. We have a small Wine Trail up there which is the Lake Ontario Wine Trail, it's not as popular as some of the other Finger Lakes but we would like to be driving more traffic to that place. We have some nice wineries, distilleries and breweries, and with the New York First Initiative at the Lago Resort the chances of us selling some of our products at the resort in their fine dining establishments, in their retail shops, perhaps some of the 3 million people that are proposed to come through the place maybe take a trip 45 minutes up north to Wayne County, check out our tourism up there, our agriculture. We also operate a 450-acre orchard so there's a multitude of things to do in another region in an adjoining county right next to Seneca County and we are in support of the Lago Resort.

Kevin Law: Great, thank you. If everybody was like Ethan, we may get through the list. Next Chris Halfelder.

Chris Halfelder: Good afternoon, name Chris Halfelder I work for the Sheet Metal Air, Rail and Transportation union which represents 6 counties in New York, one of them Seneca County. I know you heard every angle, I'm sure you're going to hear a lot more through this process. But I'm here to kind of highlight some of the things that we feel would be important in this selection if in fact you select any of these locations throughout New York as one being high risk for Lago. Key indicators in your selection process are going to be based on, someone else said it, location, location, location. The integrity of the process, the community enhancement agreements that may or may not be with many of the others but I'm assured that Lago has. The understanding that there's a PLA in the construction business which takes the con out of contractor and allows for reputable contractors to perform and build in a safe and community supporting way. And there's also a piece called philanthropy that I've heard about in the past and believe Wilmer Wright family has gone above and beyond. With that said, I'm sure there's no one in the room that doesn't know about some of the things that that family has done for our region. So, the integrity of process. I was at the Tyre Firehouse and there were concerns. Concerns were addressed as could be at that time, rescheduled at next meeting. Those initial concerns that were unable to be address such as seaker, water retention, parking lot, allotments and easements, so on and so forth were all reviewed and discussed.

Kevin Law: Chris when were those meetings with the town or with the applicant?

Chris Halfelder: That was with the applicant remedying the concerns to the elected officials for Tyre. And as now that you've asked, I was going to say being at the meetings carried with unanimous consent and each and every issue bulleted in their concerns were met through due process, and we sit here today asking for support from the state to move forward on the Wilmer Wright build. So your community agreement, not only doesn't ensure the initial build for construction workers which I represent as the marking rep, it also ensures that workforce is going to be treated in a fair and equitable way because there's an agreement that says there's going to be wage rates and establishments to be considered for these particular jobs. And there's an additional piece that attaches is a non-resistance clause to an IA union, don't know which union but would ultimately prevail at that, but it's a peace agreement where management is not going to try to dissuade or persuade in anyway a labor agreement for that workforce. The 16 or so hundred proposed workers or more as it builds. So that will allow for community sustaining jobs where you won't be worried about trailer parks popping up, that you'll actually be able to utilize local construction workers within the Tyre Community who are out looking to build, put on roofs, build houses, do whatever else it takes to create a good solid community, because you're going to have good solid community jobs, more jobs than are people living in that town. So I suspect their needs will be met with good jobs, good sustaining jobs let me add. And bottom line philanthropy. Anybody here wants to talk against the Wilmer Wright family and their cancer institute, commitment to try and make our community better, I welcome that opportunity for anybody to speak on behalf or against. So I want to reiterate the fact that if you're looking at criteria for a selection and I hear and understand there may be up to 4 selections within the state, we sure hope Finger Lakes will be one of them. It has the location, has the integrity, has the infrastructure of a whole host of entrepreneurs that are going to be able to really drive home the thriving wine industry, the budding no pun attended, beer industry, and the entrepreneurs that the commitments have been made that local products, produce, local people anyone who's producing a product in this region is going to be welcome to figure out how do they provide those wares and/or how do they provide their services, their products, their farm products, it's there. I was at the meetings. I've talked to the family in charge of building it, that's what I do and we're there. I think we should move forward with the location it's right on the Interstate. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Carl and Elyssa Mawinney. Either of you here?

Dennis Glazer: Yes over this way. She half stood up.

Kevin Law: Carl and Elyssa Mawinney?

Dennis Glazer: Can you go to the next one, she walked out.

Kevin Law: Mike Wandell.

Mike Wandell: Good afternoon. I live in Waverly, New York which is about 9 or 10 miles west of Tioga Downs. I am here in favor of Traditions at the Glen. I'm going to speak as a customer, consumer, and a resident of the area. I recently wrote a letter to our local paper about my

critique of Tioga Downs as a customer and a resident and they wouldn't submit it. And as a former union president I don't like being told I can't speak. So that's why I'm here. That motivated me in our local paper which Tioga Downs puts advertisements in a lot to come up here and speak. So I'm going to quickly read what I would have gotten in the local paper and I entitled it "*Where's the Lobster?*" When Tioga Downs first opened, they ran a commercial of showing a chef with a big hat holding a huge lobster, but when you went to the buffet there wasn't a lobster anywhere. That pretty much says it all. Since then, things haven't changed much for customers. The owner has put on a big campaign for local loyalty. That's asking a lot. Another casino in Binghamton would give people a choice and make the owner compete for customer loyalty. Sure I can go up there, I go up there just as often as anybody. Like Charlie Brown and the football, I leave disappointed most of the time. Sometimes when I eat at the buffet I feel like I ate the football. They keep raising the cost of the buffet and offering less. For the cost, you might as well have a good meal at one of the local restaurants or drive to one of the chains. In my opinion the buffet food is a little better than cafeteria food. It's not hard to get a burnt omelet or overcooked pasta somewhere else. Go to their website and check out the picture of the nice looking steak and salad on a square plate. I asked one of the managers where I could find it. He told me that was just advertising. Okay, if you don't gamble you're probably wondering what the big deal is. As a customer it just seems like you never get what's advertised. If they offer you a promotion or coupon they changes the rules from the last time you tried to use it. The promotions they do offer aren't great. I get better offers from other close casinos and I've only been to those casino a few times this year. You think that you'd get better deals from a casino you go to once a week. In one of their recent promotion changes they substituted a self-promoting t-shirt for a money giveaway, that's a good one. The gaming itself seems tough compared to other casinos in the neighborhood. In one casino I got a jackpot after my first 4 pulls in the casino. I haven't gotten a jackpot in the last 4 months at Tioga Downs. In another casino I hit for \$200 after being there 15 minutes. The 2 hour drive to another casino feels worth it. A 45-minute drive to Binghamton would be a good option. I heard all the arguments for Tioga Downs before it opened. I've also heard all the arguments for a bigger and better version of Tioga Downs. It was supposed to help with local taxes but school taxes locally keep going up, I can tell ya. Tioga Downs applied for a lump sum payout in lieu of paying taxes on a project. Can every day landowners pay a lump sum now instead of paying taxes for the next 10 years? No. The all in campaign that Tioga Downs and it's owner is putting on to remain the only show in town is interesting. Maybe if Tioga Downs and the owner listened to and took care of customers they wouldn't need to have an all in campaign. Instead of going all in on Tioga Downs, I think we should hedge our bets with another casino. Until this morning, I didn't realize that Traditions had paired up with the Seneca Allegheny Gaming. My dad and mom used to go there and my dad was a heart patient and he really enjoyed them. They took care of him out at Seneca Casino and it was the last couple of years of his life he had a really good time out there. So I think it's a smart move on Traditions part to pair with that casino. They take care of people. They appreciate customers. One time my dad did have a heart event out there and they called and asked how he was doing in the hospital and he went back several months later to a free room. He really appreciated it. In a funny way he lost his teeth in the heart attack that he had that night and they bought him his teeth back at the cost of \$10,000 out at Seneca Allegheny, who else is going to do that? Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you Mike. Frank Longo.

Male: Frank had to leave so I'll take his time for myself.

Kevin Law: Were you already on the list?

Male: Yes I am.

Kevin Law: And what's your name? Bill Murphy? Gotcha Bill.

Bill Murphy: Good afternoon, my name is Bill Murphy I've been a resident of Broome County for the past 45 years. I came directly out of college to work for IBM and has been said a number of times, the southern tier, Broome County was really a land of opportunity back then, bustling with opportunity and jobs. 43 years later I retired from Lockheed Martin 2 years ago as an engineer. I've got probably 3 points to make and I'll try to keep them brief. And I'm here also to support the Traditions proposal. The number 1 point I think is the economic growth opportunity it has for Broome County. I worked a number of years with Lockheed with Binghamton University on an Advisory Board there and we were looking at creating jobs within the southern tier. Technology, very meaningful jobs. And it was very difficult to do. I think this opportunity with the Traditions Proposal gives us a great opportunity for economic growth. In addition to the direct jobs it creates at the casino, it also creates a number of different spin offs, second tier jobs, third tier jobs and there's a tremendous infrastructure within Broome County to support that supply chain as it exists today. I have 3 grown adult children that I would love to see have opportunities within Broome County and their children as well have opportunities for satisfying jobs within the local community, and not be forced to go out of state to get meaningful jobs. Also the opportunities within the economic growth or in the tax base it generates. A number of years with Lockheed I worked very hard to retain manufacturing jobs within the southern tier within Broome County. And that was very, very difficult just because of the tax structure and with the jobs this creates, with the revenue it creates, the tax base it creates, its going to help everybody and help local business to retain jobs within the southern tier because of the lower tax structure. The third point I'd like to make is the credibility of the proposal. Now all the proposals I've worked on during my working career, one of the key things was the credibility, the past performance and the credibility that the proposal had. Now I'd like to tell you that I've know the Walsh family for the past 40 years. They've been a very opportunistic family looking for opportunities but they've always delivered on what they've set out to do. When they bought the Heritage from the IBM Corporation, they have turned that into a world class resort now. It was a lot of insight went into that, a lot of dedicated effort and it is truly a world class resort as it exists today. So I believe that from a past performance standpoint when they promised things in the past like the casino proposal, they have been 100% to their word in terms of delivering on those promises. And I think that's very important in evaluating any proposal, is past performance and the credibility of the solution to the proposal. So with that, I think the proposal they've offered is one that thinks big but I think it's also one that they can deliver on and because of the economic growth opportunities, the job infrastructure and the

supply chain infrastructure in the southern tier, I think it's a great proposal that I would like to provide my sincere support to. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Bill you filled in for Mike Wendell or Longo?

Bill Murphy: Longo.

Kevin Law: Diane Hunter. Now this is like the 300th speaker so all your names sound alike now.

Diane Hunter: Good afternoon. My name is Diane Hunter and I hail actually originally from Bath, New York. My connection with this area was made very young. My father was an IMBer and he used to come here and he used to bring me to the IBM Country Club for all their big parties. And I actually kind of looked forward to being able to use that facility like as an adult but if anybody from this area is pretty well aware, that facility is a huge eyesore that I drive by at least twice a week now. I also left this community another time during my 30 years here and I went to Southampton New York to attending Long Island University and achieve my Bachelor's. I could have stayed there however it was very expensive to live in Southampton so I was drawn back to Binghamton, a very tight knit community, very friendly people, a lot of entrepreneurs there but when I came back what I saw was a lot of very empty storefronts. And it was quite depressing. On the job front, I took a job with the Press and Sun Bulletin was a pretty established organization and I would be there for a long period of time. However even though the Press and Sun Bulletin ended up buying another building, they also had a series of lay-offs over a 3 year period and while I was working helping flooding victims, I got laid off from that position. So I spent the last 30 years here looking at more and more empty storefronts, more and more depressed friends, working with youth that have left this area and about 6 to 9 months ago I looked at my daughter and said, "You're going to graduate from Windsor High School in 5 years and after that mom's gone unless something significant happens in this area." I'm hoping that that's the casino. And I've heard a lot of talk here today, actually more than I knew about the Racino in Owego. I think both can exist peacefully together. I think our communities are very connected. We here in Binghamton when Owego was needing help with flood, there was a lot of intermeshing of services and people from Broome County and Tioga County mixed in a lot of services. I don't see that as being a detriment at all. I wouldn't play into any of the nay sayers and I wouldn't play into any of the politics. I'm hoping, I'm really hoping that as I stand in front of you it's not a political decision. It's not about how many elected officials come up here and support this community or that community. Because that's what a lot of the community members feel, that it's going to be a political decision. It shouldn't be. It's about who has the proposals, who has the economic need and the best location for it. And if it's my vote it would be Broome County. Thank you.

Dennis Glazer: I will tell you that this group, this group of 5 people, all we are, are volunteers we are trying to do the right thing. We're trying to learn as much as we can. We have excellent advice both from commissioned staff and from outside consultants. And there'll be nothing

political about this. This will be a straightforward honest, our best judgment decision because speaking for myself I don't do it any other way and I know my colleagues feel the same way.

Diane Hunter: Well we're counting on that. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you Dennis and thank you Diane. Alesse Johnson. This is another way to get through the list. Nope, oh is this Alesse? This is Alesse.

Alesse Johnson: Good afternoon I'm Margaret Wagstaff by the way. I'm here today to represent

Kevin Law: I'm sorry Margaret what's your last name?

Margaret Wagstaff: Wagstaff.

Dennis Glazer: What happened to Alesse Johnson?

Kevin Law: I called Alesse Johnson.

Margaret Wagstaff: She had to go back to work I guess.

Kevin Law: Did she ask you to speak in her spot?

Margaret Wagstaff: They, yes.

Kevin Law: And how do you spell your last name?

Margaret Wagstaff: W A G S T A F F.

Dennis Glazer: New material please.

Margaret Wagstaff: Excuse me.

Dennis Glazer: New material if you can. Something new, we've heard a lot.

Margaret Wagstaff: Okay something new. I wish there was something new to stay other than the loss of jobs and I think the casino would be great for Broome County. I've lived here all my life, born and raised. I've jumped from job to job from a full-time to a part-time to no time. This is what Broome County really needs and I picked up the paper yesterday and what I see in there closings, Pepsi laying off 50 more people and as she said, it's a depressed, excuse me I'm kind of emotional. I love my town, I just wish there were more jobs, more opportunities like there used to be. Jobs were plentiful, IBM, Singer, oh I don't know EJs, I can go on and on and on but as you ride by they're eyesores. They're gone. I think this would be a great opportunity. More jobs. I work for a hotel, I've seen less people coming to the hotels locally. Nobody's traveling,

there's nothing here. As far as jobs, excitement, and this would be a great opportunity. It really would.

Dennis Glazer: Thank you.

Kevin Law: CC Sisen.

CC Sisen: That was really good pronunciation by the way. My name is CC and I am favored for Traditions. I was raised in Broome County but currently I live in the residence of Endwell, New York which is currently less than 5 miles down the street from Traditions. However like many young residents, I moved away simply because there are no job opportunities. Revitalizing Broome County will bring in jobs to such a depressed area such as Binghamton, New York. Putnam which is a manufacturing plant will be closing their factory, again leaving over 200 people jobless just like Pepsico that we recently learned about last week. I ask that you please consider Traditions, as we need to have this opportunity to help build our community. Thank you for your time.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Jeffrey Clark. James Coby. Anthony Grassi. This is a good way to get through the list.

Dennis Glazer: Yeah we just read the names from yesterday that's why.

Kevin Law: Louis Roma. Frankie Hubbard. Steven Donnelly. All went back on the bus before. Richard Lane. Matt Walsh. Jim Farrell. Clark Coburn. Hey bingo.

Clark Coburn: I hadn't really planned on speaking today so I don't have a long written out speech. You can tell by my shirt I'm in favor of the casino in Lago. I spent my entire life in the Finger Lakes Region from my childhood years in Savannah a town adjacent to Tyre and I currently live in Clyde which is the village in the Town of Galen which is also adjacent. So I'm just a few short miles away, been there my whole life. Over my career I served on the school board in Clyde. We wrestled with budgets as do most. The eroding tax base was a problem in our area which includes the very northern, Clyde Savannah District includes the very northern part of Tyre. The Montezuma Refuge as it expands takes away from the tax base so there's an impact. I've lived in the area my whole life, raised a family. I'm an electrician by trade. I've spent many long hours traveling up and down the roads of Finger Lakes. I had to, to apply my trade to be able to feed and support my family. I have 2 beautiful grown daughters.

Unfortunately they both had to leave the area because there was no jobs here for them. One currently lives in New Hampshire and one lives in South Carolina. You said don't get personal in what you say here today but when you can't supply jobs for your children, it gets very personal to me. As one of my previous jobs, I served on the workforce investment board that represented the counties of Seneca, Ontario, Wayne County, the county which I live in, and also Yates County. One of the growth areas that was listed at those times from the Department of Labor was the tourism and the hotel industry was one of the few growths as we've seen manufacturing and maintenance go downhill, some of that void has been filled with those

sectors. Lago in the heart of the Finger Lakes, you can see it up there right in between Cayuga and Seneca Lakes is the perfect spot to put a casino that's going to be truly a destination and will bring people from out of town. They won't just come in and leave, they'll have an opportunity to travel up and down the roads and spend a couple of days. My daughter at one time, she took tours around to some of the wine trails and had a great time doing it. But now we have heard from the brewery people and some people of distilleries, its an opportunity to get people. Nobody wants traffic unless it goes by your business. If it goes by your business then everybody seems to be in favor of that. The site adjacent to the thruway, you could hit a golf ball from the thruway, well maybe I can't but you might be able to, from the thruway to where the site is. So you hear some negative impacts, it's a very short distance. Most of the people that come I feel will be coming down the thruway from Rochester, from Syracuse, they're going to be exiting and driving just a few hundred yards to where the Lago is. As a destination it would be perfect for people to jumping off point to visit some of the other destinations around our area. That's pretty much all I have to say. Thank you for the time and Lago is the key.

Kevin Law: Thanks Clark and it's actually that type of personal stuff that resonates. What we were referring to before is let's keep the discussion here at a high level and not attack each other personally. But thank you for those comments. Gail Buck. Gail Maureen.

Dennis Glazer: Any Gail's.

Kevin Law: I brought Dennis just for the jokes. Pat Chamberlain. James Hafter.

James Hafter: Jim Hafter Vestal, New York, Broome County. I've lived here my entire life except for college. My father he worked at GAF. My aunts and uncles they worked at GE, IBM, Crowley Foods, Singer Link, Endicott Johnson, throughout Broome County. Yesterday's News Day discussed job growth in New York State, the State Labor Department stated that job growth in the Binghamton area was the slowest in New York State. The Governor's plan is to put a casino in an economically depressed area of New York, Traditions is in such an area. Some have commented about the traffic concerns at Traditions. I drive regularly across the bridge in Broome County that the county has closed for repairs. 10,000 cars cross this bridge daily. The county has set up a detour that brings this traffic directly through the entrance of Traditions Casino. I have seen no negative impact driving this detour route while the bridge is closed. Thank you for my comments.

Kevin Law: Thank you. John Sedoia. Bill Martin.

Bill Martin: Good afternoon gentleman. Bill Martin from Montezuma Winery. Also we have Hidden Marsh Distillery, the new Idle Ridge Winery in Montezuma Properties. So taking a day out of harvest today is definitely a beautiful day, its touch. But

Kevin Law: How's your harvest this year?

Bill Martin: Sunny days are a good thing. So all of our businesses are located in Seneca County. Our main headquarters Montezuma Winery and Hidden Marsh Distillery are in the town of Tyre. We're here today to give our enthusiastic support for the casino in the town of Tyre. We're a first class Winery in New York and we produce about ¼ million bottles of wine a year. So we hire 30 local and part-time people, excuse me part-time and full-time people in our county and we take great pride, not only being in our town but in the Finger Lakes Region. We're one of the first businesses that Wilmer Wright came over to speak to about this project. We're only 4 ½ miles away from the casino so we stand to benefit greatly from this. And I'm here today on the side of the whole wine industry benefiting from this. As you know it's a booming industry in New York State. Over the past 20 years most of growth has happened in that industry and we've really produced some premium wines that's fledged the industry along to bring in millions of tourists each year and create revenues for our towns and counties. Just our property alone brings in more than \$100,000 in sales tax revenue a year. So with an increase in tourist traffic we can continue to bring that in not to mention the excise tax that the state is bringing in from our spirits and wine. One of the things that's most appealing to us about this casino is that obviously the tourism traffic. We're right down the road from the Waterloo Outlet Malls here and they're going to bring in a similar amount of people. The typical scenario is that Saturday afternoon there's a tourist or family going to the outlet mall, they'll stop by our winery have a nice relaxing tasting, bring a bottle or two of wine home and enjoy that and tell their friends and they come back again. With the casino bringing those type of people in, it will just continue to increase that tourism traffic. We're really excited about the fact that they'll have an entertainment center there. If we could just get 1% of the 1700 seats that they sell, if we get 17 people to stop by on a weekday where we have 100 people that's 17% traffic increase for us, that's huge and that's 32 more bottles sold or whatever our equation is, bottles per taster. The fact that there's loading there means that the casino goes can come, stay and Wilmer Wright said that they'd be able to shuttle people from the casino to the wineries to enjoy their time here. We really want to benefit the tourist by bringing them in and letting them stay a few days. I'm impressed with their commitment to use local workforce as well as their dedication to using Finger Lakes wines on their property. It's fantastic to know that the casino goer will be able to go drink our wine on the casino floor, drink our wine in the entertainment center and again, further promote the Finger Lakes wine region. Since we're in the town of Tyre, we're struggling in the town of Tyre and as you have heard, Seneca County has the lowest per capita income out of the 3 counties in question today and the town of Tyre actually has the highest tax rate. As you heard too, we're blessed to have Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge and the state land surrounding us with 7000 acres that's taken out of our tax roll though. And we're the proud owners to have the second highest property tax in the town so. We're contributing to our town but we're a struggling business and if we can get more people to come in and spend more money, that will certainly help our business move along. Everything that we bring in we give back to our business. It's my parents, my brother and I we started this business from nothing and we just invest nonstop into our business. Thousands of dollars that we would save in taxes we'll put right back into the business and that means going down the road to Advanced Metal in Geneva and purchasing another wine tank from them or using process barrels in Geneva to purchase wine press or whatever that may be. And then obviously, you know, there's the surplus of money that our town would have would help to improve the infrastructure in our town. We're a rural community. We don't have

a lot of infrastructure right now and we're on the edge of town and we have no municipal water. We use, as you can imagine the winery distillery uses a ton of water. We would definitely be asking the town to help us expand our business and our production with water. We're excited about the tourism and we're excited for the town.

Kevin Law: Times up.

Bill Martin: I'd like to submit 2 things here for you. One is what's in a wine bottle just to tell you who benefits in the sale of wine.

Kevin Law: Oh interesting. Thanks Bill. Brian Allen. Brian Allen. Bruce Anderson.

Bruce Anderson: Good afternoon. Again, my name is Bruce Anderson. I'm an Ithaca resident. Have been an absentee farmer in Chautauqua County but have lived here in Ithaca for 36 years now. Also now retired professor of Business Management and Marketing here at Cornell. I have worked with the wine industry and other industries here in New York. I am here to oppose all additional casinos in New York for two reasons I will let you know later. Yes I do agree that casinos will provide some short-term employment especially in the construction industry, but if you notice what's going on in the casino business, there is an over supply of gaming industries in the northeast. I mean why would Donald Trump declare bankruptcy as well as other casinos down in Atlantic City and they thought they were the savior to the world at one point in time, in fact now Atlantic City seems to be really in the dumps in terms of gambling. So, my first point is that I believe that gambling and casino business is over saturated especially in the northeast. My second thing is that I am worried about the behavior that will result in increased gambling access. It's my impression, I don't have any data on this but that those who tend to gamble are not the most well off people in the world. In other words they can't afford it and I'll give you an example that I had an experience to happen upon here about 15 years ago. I was doing some consulting out in Reno, Nevada. The hotel that I stayed at gave me 2 rolls of nickels. The first thing that is the toughest thing to do is to find slot machines that will take nickels. But I finally found some way in the back of a room. And next to me were a husband and wife and they were sitting there putting their nickels in, pulling the slots down, smoking away to beat the band. Finally I heard the husband who sat right next to me say, "Gee" to his wife, "I'm getting a little tired, I think I'm going to sit down." Well he was already on a stool but he sat down on the floor with his back up against the slot machines. And his wife was still there putting in the nickels, pulling down the arm, and all of sudden he started tipping over next to me and I turned to his wife and said, "I think your husband is having a heart attack" she kept putting in the nickels and pulling the arm down.

Dennis Glazer: How long were they married?

Bruce Anderson: I never asked. But I figure that type of behavior when your spouse is falling over and so I was the one who went and got the emergency people brought them in, trucked him out on a gurney but that just showed me how people can be almost addicted to gambling and that's why the second reason I oppose additional gambling here in New York State. Fortunately,

over the years I've had a lot of great guest lectures in my classes at Cornell, CEO John Reed from Citicorp, CEO's of Proctor and Gamble, Merck, etc. and one question I'd always ask them is what percentage of the decisions you make are bad decisions? They'd say 10 to 15%. But the other 90 to 85% cover them up. I just think having additional casinos in New York in a bad decision.

Kevin Law: Thank you Bruce. Okay back to the registered list for 4:00 p.m. Kay Strong. Is Kay here?

Dennis Glazer: Pull that down. You can pull that down if it helps.

Kay Strong: Thank you. My name is Kay Strong and my home and farm are only ½ mile from this proposed site in Tyre. My husband and I raised a family of 3 in this area for 58 years. And I'll really opposed and disturbed by the possibility of an Atlantic style city style casino in Tyre, New York. There are many reasons a casino in Tyre doesn't make sense but I will only deliver a few points in the short time I have. The Tyre location misses the mark when it comes to destination. This casino application should be rejected on the basis of the lack of providing actual new economics. This site is merely a thruway filter to lure already existing gaming profits. What good is a casino here if the other 4 casinos who employ New Yorkers and create tax revenue for New York State are being cannibalized? Its not new money . we don't need another rebel like Atlantic city, a disaster. Wilmer Wright refers to our precision farmland as a good piece of dirt and he's right, but for farming. Land in Tyre is usually a good quality soil for farming. This land is in an agricultural district of Seneca County. In fact the whole town is considered agricultural. Make no mistake the north side of the New York State Thruway is all farmland and was never supposed to be used for commercial. Anything requiring a special use permit, even for home business not to mention signage is extremely limited by our zoning. Wilmer Wright made a big mistake in trying to come to Tyre, New York. Last summer 2013 dangling expensive toys with ladder trucks for Magee's Fire Department, that's all you have to say to any volunteer fireman in our small town. Wilmer Wright thought we'd go away after he rigged the board, god knows, but we'll never get the truth about potential lobbying, the lobbying loophole in regards to small towns is working quite nicely for Wilmer Wright's Casino plans. As villages with populations fewer than 50,000 do not have to disclose their spending. This is not at all a transparent process for the people of Tyre. They say they want to be good neighbors but therein lies the real problem. Good neighbors don't manipulate town laws and rural heritage which were in place to protect our land uses. Not only has Wilmer Wright disrespected the very place to protect our land uses, excuse me, not only has Wilmer Wright disrespected the very citizens of Tyre, they have gone behind the scenes to influence the process. Foiled records revealed some e-mails from our town supervisor and another person discussing the agenda to make sure the yes casino have just as many speaking spots as the casino free Tyre people. Why did the town clerk tell a Chase Road neighbor back in December that this casino was already a done deal? It troubles me greatly to think that the town has been privy to this well known before November but it must be true because the county had a supervisors as quoted on PBS as saying he helped them look for a spot in the summer. Was this a backroom deal too. I say yes. Since Wilmer Wright cannot gain support in Tyre's community they resorted to playing the union card

not owning up to the real facts, they aren't welcome in Tyre. We only accept farming neighbors in our farming community, not 6 story commercial buildings. This is not the place for a casino, it's a farming community complete with Amish horse and buggies along with large tractors and farm implements and we want to keep it that way. Please if you must site a casino in region 5, please put it where people want it and where the intent of the law was made along the Pennsylvania border. I thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Desiree Dolly.

Desiree Dolly: Thank you to Commissioner Gerham[sounds like] and the Siting Board Staff on your professionalism and responsiveness during this entire process. We are grateful for this hearing for public comment and the availability of your staff to answer promptly our many questions over the last several months. My name is Desiree Dolly mother of 6 and wife of Jim Dolly spokesperson for Casino Free Tyre. We've been property owners on Chase Road in Tyre for 30 years. We recently built a new home on this property adjacent to the proposed Wilmer Wright project in hopes of providing a safe rural residence to raise our family. We love this area because of the wholesome and quiet community. My husband's family has been living and farming in Tyre for 58 years only 2 miles away. The original intent of the economic relief after Prop 1 passed was supposed to be for the benefit of the real southern tier specific to the Pennsylvania border. Tyre voted down Prop 1 back in November. The majority of the citizens of Tyre are opposed to this project, many people of opposition to gambling, but other opposed to it because the site is in the wrong place. Because of the change in zoning, the proposed Wilmer Wright Casino will allow this project in a job that it was never meant to enter, the agricultural zone. The main supporters of this proposal are not even from Tyre. Many are union, others are towns in Seneca County and those towns stand to gain money from the taxes it generates and distributions throughout the county. So of course they say yes, but the people inside of Tyre are who it really affects. The town of Tyre officials should be passing the host resolutions based on the communities wishes not their own personal desires. I believe a casino in Tyre will drive agriculture out of the area because of the pressure on agricultural land which will devastate the main economy of Tyre. The Wilmer Wright proposal is being forced on the people, especially the folks north of the thruway. Tyre is only approximately 4 miles by 4 miles. It's a berg like town, extremely small and it does not even have it's own post office, school or phone. Tyre uses Seneca Falls, Waterloo and Clyde School Systems. Tyre does not even need the kind of development that this project will bring. Our comprehensive plan ranks commercial development last and always mentions, I'm sorry, also mentions that it should be a reasonable size. This is not a small project. In fact it's gotten even bigger than what we were sold just before the application deadline time for June 30th. So in the quiet countryside of Tyre, New York, a place where wildlife and farmland is valued and where the local families cherish the bucolic quality of our community and are proud to share these appreciations with the Amish and Mennonite Communities, an Atlantic City rebel style casino if it were introduced into the town of Tyre would forever pollute this community and it will introduce a business that will likely create a type of failure and conclude with the local residents realizing the negative effects. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the attention that you've given and respectfully request that each Board member please review the materials we've submitted and

we remain confident that the Facility Location Board will share our concerns and remember that personal integrity is paramount. Thank you very much.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Wendy Kane.

Wendy Kane: Thank you very much for this opportunity to speak and to share my thoughts and opinion. My name is Wendy Kane I have been a resident of Tyre for 24 years. My husband and I both work for Cornell University doing agricultural research but at their experiment station in Geneva not here in Ithaca which is what brought us to the Finger Lakes area 27 years ago. After renting for 3 years in the Geneva area we purchased our home in Tyre because of it's agricultural and rural flavor, it's open spaces, a slower pace of life and a less restricted lifestyle. My 24 year observations of my fellow Tyre residents is that these are also the reasons that most people choose to live in Tyre. Mostly the farmer in Tyre choose to live there because of their chosen profession. These observations were supported by the results of the survey of residents that was conducted as part of the town's comprehensive plan. Having been born and raised on the north folk of the east end of Long Island, back when it was a close knit, agricultural and rural community much like Tyre currently is, I'm deeply disturbed by the prospect of a casino and resort of this magnitude in the town of Tyre. Development and tourism changed the east end of Long Island to a community totally unrecognizable from what it was when I was growing up. The people who started visiting and often ended up moving there had very different values, wants and needs from the local native people. The demand for more housing and shopping developments gobbled up open spaces and agricultural land. New laws, rules and restrictions such as restricting noisy, dirty and smelling farming practices, noise restrictions such as when you could and couldn't mow your lawn or operate power equipment needed to be created to keep these new people happy. Hunting and fishing access and opportunities became almost nonexistent and the traffic has become so excessive that people will drive miles out of their way to avoid trying to make a left hand turn onto the main road through town. While it might have become a desirable place for this new class of people to live and visit, the native often-multigenerational families such as mine no longer want to live there and have largely moved away. I see so many similarities to what happened out there and what could potentially happen here in Tyre if this casino were to be built in our town. This would be the start of the destruction of our way of life and the reasons why we have chosen to liven in Tyre. There are people in Tyre, particularly our leaders and politicians who are excited about the prospects of lots of money flowing into Tyre, I have not heard at any meeting any one of them say that we're going to get it back in taxes, it's assumed that we are, I've never heard it. However money does not buy happiness. How happy will the people of Tyre be when they can no longer do the things that they love to do in Tyre? Just as a native east end of Long Islander if you can find one as many have moved away in search of a new place to find their happiness. Tyre is not the place for this casino. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Wendy where'd you grow up in Riverhead or Southold.

Wendy Kane: Montauk.

Kevin Law: Montauk right in Southold thank you. Beautiful place. Still is. Pete Mitchell. Pete Mitchell?

Pete Mitchell: Hello.

Kevin Law: Can we take any sidebar conversations out of the room so all of the people who are here can listen to your neighbors speaking up front. Thank you. Pete. Hold on, let me start this over again. You're up.

Pete Mitchell: Okay by the way if I say anything original please let me know because I haven't been here that long to know what you've heard already. My name is Pete Mitchell and I'm a resident of one of the areas where a casino is being considered. As people have said, it's an area of upstate New York full of fields, farms and forests. Its miles and miles of land with villages between 2000 and 7000 residents. It's a small community and it's a wonderfully quiet and peaceful part of New York State. People that come through often tell me that they're surprised to find such an undeveloped and pristine area left in New York.

Dennis Glazer: You're talking about the Lago?

Pete Mitchell: Yes I'm sorry I didn't mention that. Yes. Do you really believe that adding a monstrous structure such as the one Wilmer Wright is proposing is a proper fit for agricultural areas with the traffic and ensuing problems. There are those that want the project. They point out that jobs will be created and money will be diverted to our area and that sounds great, having all that money and all those jobs brought to our local area of the country. But all we're doing is shuffling money back and forth from one place to another. Instead of going to Turning Stone or the Finger Lakes Casino, folks will now go to Wilmer Wright Casino in Tyre. So you take that money from one part and move it to another and it doesn't do any good. It's not a positive. And the ____ about the casinos aren't positive either. There's a lot of issues with having a casino in your area the one of the least is which bankruptcy show a rise by as much as 5.4%, increased visitor traffic will take all the money that casinos possibly bring in tax dollars and have to spend them on infrastructure costs for roads and bridges that will need more repairs because of the additional vehicle traffic. Police costs will increase with the increase of tourists and the ensuing crime that follows and low entertainment and eating establishments will show a decrease in sales. Atlantic City lost 100 bars and restaurants in the years after they went legally gambling and by the way that number is now up to 200 and if you've been to Atlantic City it's a wasteland. I mean, except for the casinos, which by the way are starting to go bankrupt one by one, there's not much in Atlantic City. And the overnight accommodations that will be at the center itself will compete with the businesses like the Ramada, the Holiday Inn and the Hampton Inn. And there's social cost, gamblers are 2 ½ to 5 times more likely to be arrested and use narcotics. They have an increase in mental health issues and higher unemployment numbers. And let's not forget who the casinos do rely on for their profits, the bulk of their income is derived from those that can least afford to gamble. The elderly on a fixed income and the poor. The Canadian government financed a study to see how people gamble and what they spend. The study shows that 30% of the profits from gaming tables and 60% of the profits from slot machines come from

problem gamblers. A ____ University study backed up those numbers and go even farther stating that problem gamblers are an integral part of the casino's revenue model. A friend of mine is a psychologist and I told him what I was doing today. He said I should go check out a casino and watch the people that are gambling and to take note of who was gambling and what the expression on their face was while they were there. And by the way I recommend everybody try this at one time. So I went, and you know what I saw, by enlarge I saw senior citizens staring blankly at machines while they shoved their social security check money into video poker games. And the folks at the gaming tables weren't smiling at all. They just stared and prayed their numbers would come in. I went to several casinos over a period of time and did the same study and I got the same results. Casinos aren't the answer to the jobs and money issues we face, it's just one more false home we're chasing. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you Pete. Jim Nerpes.

Jim Nerpes: Thank you Mr. Chairman, Board members for giving me the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is James Nerpes a resident of the town of Tyre, living and owning property adjacent to the proposed site and a retired farmer who farmed land in the town of Tyre for 58 years. I strongly oppose the siting of the Lago Resort and Casino in the town of Tyre particularly as it would adverse affect agriculture in the town. Soil in the town is rich and productive. The farms typically are cash crop or dairy and predominant crops are corn, soybeans and hay. There are many family owned multigenerational farms including moderate attractive Mennonite farms in the town and Amish farms, one of which is directly across route 414 from the proposed casino. These farms produce nearly all the feed needed for their livestock. The casino site would be less than 1 mile from the town of Julius and approximately 2 miles from the town of Galen. These towns, along with Tyre, comprise a community of approximately 300 Amish. It seemed obvious the traffic the casino would generate would not be safe or compatible with our Amish neighbors who travel by horse and buggy. Large tractors and implements as well as horse led equipment used on farms in Tyre will make the town's side roads dangerous due to an increase of traffic from casino workers and patrons. The farm equipments implements must be transported on the roads in Tyre from the various fields comprising each farm. Traffic ____ engineers for this project indicated that there were no horse and buggy or bicycles on the road for several hours on a Friday and Saturday in November while the temperature was 37 degrees. Never has there been a study of the side road impacts, nor farm machinery or even major roads. It is quite possible that the harvest was over in November. How can engineers measure appropriately as the time of year when the roads are least busy? The land upon which the casino will be built is part of an agriculture district protected from commercial development. To accommodate the developer, the town board had to enact a special law called a PUD. To do this, they had to apply to New York Ag and Markets for special use permit. On that statement BND Associates Wilmer Wright's engineering firm did not mark the parcel was within an agricultural district containing farm operation which it was. I have a copy of that form attached for each board member. Now the question is any portion of project site being farmed, the form was checked no. This land has had crops grown on it for at least the last 15 years. Currently a crop of soybeans is growing on it. Plus the application submitted to Ag and Markets contain false information. I'm concerned about 60 acres of building and impervious paved parking lot

run off that will occur from the site which has 2 wet lands on it comprising 25 acres and includes the start of White Brook a waterway that leads to Montezuma Wildlife Refuge. For more than 30 years I farmed about 1 mile downstream to a site where White Brook winds its way to the refuge. Nearly every spring and during a large rainfall event, White Brook would overflow into adjacent farmland. The acres to be conveyed from cropland to buildings and pavement would greatly enhance the potential for flooding, potentially ruin acres of crops. In 2008 a comprehensive planning survey was taken of residents of the town of Tyre. This is a direct excerpt from the town of Tyre's comprehensive plan 2014 second 8, general comments and ideas. The most important challenges to the town of Tyre cited by the survey respondents were protecting the natural resources and water quality as well as maintaining agriculture and promoting farming. Respondents rated accommodation of residential and commercial growth as the last important challenges. Four of the first 5 challenges are concerns for the future viability of agriculture in the town. For these several reasons I would urge you not to choose the town of Tyre for the casino site as it would forever change the character of our town and change its agricultural nature to a commercial city full of visitors. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Back to the other list. Michael Fitzpatrick. Michael still here? Anna Polatovich.

Female: I'm on your list and you skipped over me.

Dennis Glazer: What's your name?

Sue Ellen Mower: Sue Ellen Mower. I was right after Keith Mitchell. On the list, reserve list.

Kevin Law: Sorry.

Dennis Glazer: I'm sorry what was your name ma'am?

Sue Ellen Mower: Sue Ellen Mower.

Dennis Glazer: Is she right gentleman? Come forward. They said she's right.

Kevin Law: What list? We just went through 5 at the 4:00 hour.

Dennis Glazer: They said she's right.

Kevin Law: Alright please. Sorry, so what's your name?

Sue Ellen Mower: Sue Ellen Mower and I will be reading Lynn Barbudo's letter today. She was unable to physically be here.

Dear Mr. Gearan and gentleman of the committee, This is in regard to the proposed Lago Casino and Resort in the town of Tyre, Seneca County New York by developer Thomas Wilmot and his family from Rochester, New York. I was thinking of what to write for this committee in this

short but understandable 5-minute limit. My conclusion an impossible task. So my plea today as a member of the clergy must come from a moral viewpoint. The moral compass in this case should be in question because money and power equals the opportunity and position for any developer to get what they want at any cost. So how is this moral? The decision making panel is highly educated, networked and employed by or in New York State with families of their own and should be well versed on the issues of this casino. The opportunity to do the right thing is here and now. Number 1, we have submitted a great deal of documentation that proves the proposed casino and the Wilmot family have come up short by your own standards and requirements to have and maintain a high integrity level for the Wilmot Casino to be considered for a gaming license. They have not. Number 2, the majority of the residents from the town of Tyre either by petition or letters sent to the commission or to the committee, do not support the number needed to meet your own standards and requirements. The people have spoken. I am asking this question to the committee and their families and Mr. Thomas Wilmot and his family, would any of you want a casino out the front door of your home? You as a committee have the final say to the future of our families and homes. We ask all of you to do a lot of soul searching before you make a judgment, our fate is in your hands. Our faith is still with God. Please make the right and moral conclusion for the people of Tyre. Thank you, Sincerely, Lynn Barbudo and spokes person for the Amish Community.

And because I have a little time left I'm going to read to you again the e-mail that I sent you a while back. I'm not sure if you were on the committee at the time. There were only 3 people. This was to Paul Francis, Stuart Rabinowitz and William C. Thomson, Jr. Dear Men, I am counting on you to be men and do the right thing. As I'm sure you are aware the voters of the town of Tyre voted against the allowance of non-Indian casinos in New York State so why would anyone consider building one in their small town? Please visit our area if you haven't already. A resort casino has no place in our beautiful Finger Lakes region. There are a large number of Amish and Mennonite families in the immediate area surrounding the proposed casino site. These families farm their land and live their life in a very loving and respectful way. Don't they deserve to be treated with respect? And then there's Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge close by. The increased activity surely will destruct wildlife there. The rights of the citizens of Tyre to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness far out weight the right of the corporation to make a huge amount of money at the expense of resident's whose families have farmed in this beautiful agricultural town for generations. How could any good come from that? I know you have to consider all valid applications. Are there applicants for locations where the residents actually want a casino? If so then the choice should be very clear. Please do not choose Tyre as a location to build the casino resort, the damage will never be able to be undone. Thank you so much.

Kevin Law: Thank you. We're going to the other list now. I called him before, Michael Fitzpatrick. Anna Polatovich. Betsy Ramso.

Dennis Glazer: Oh Betsy had surgery.

Vincent Reynolds: I know I don't look like Betsy. She had to leave so I was asked to speak on her behalf.

Kevin Law: By her? What's your name?

Vincent Reynolds: Vincent Reynolds.

Kevin Law: Were you scheduled to speak later on?

Vincent Reynolds: I am on the list for later on. You can cross me off.

Kevin Law: Yep I'm crossing you off for later.

Vincent Reynolds: Did I understand you correctly you're volunteers?

Kevin Law: Yes.

Dennis Glazer: Hard to believe right?

Vincent Reynolds: Yes absolutely so thank you for the effort you're putting into this. I cover the southern tier. I live in Jamesville, New York. When I was a child I lived in Endicott. My father was with IBM and I can remember a time when Broome County and Binghamton was the center of technological innovation in the world. It's a little bit saddening, but it's also very inspiring to see the effort of the Walsh family and Traditions at the Glen to bring greatness and jobs back to Broome County. I know Broome County voted in favor of Prop 1. I recently relocated to New York from Atlanta, Georgia. I've seen what unchecked growth can do to what once was a very charming place. I'm amazed at the beautiful of Upstate New York as I go about my daily travels I'm amazed by the beauty of the Finger Lakes. All things being equal, I think what the Walsh family has proposed for a casino at Traditions at the Glen fits perfectly with the community. I think it's something that the community welcomes. I have attended almost every presentation given by the entities bidding for this casino and I'm here to voice my support for Traditions at the Glen but more importantly for the city of Binghamton and the people of Broome County. I think the State of New York literally owes it to Binghamton and the county of Broome. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you Vince. Bill Murphy. Jackie Basti. You're Bill Murphy. Is he here? Where is he? And he asked you to speak for him? No then I'm sorry you can't. Jackie Basti, B A S T I. Karen Edwards. Debbie Koler. David Edwards.

David Edwards: Gentleman, my name is David Edwards and I am from Johnson City, New York and I'm for the Traditions at the Glen. Well so many percent of the selection decision is based on economic impact, I hope that the committee takes into serious consideration the indirect and induced or spin-off effect that will happen in the Greater Binghamton area if the license is awarded to Broome County as compared to the rural counties of Tioga and Seneca. Just consider

the numbers: Broome County has 5000 more unemployed, 5 times the number of local businesses and vendors and existing ____ that will support the actual new business development that can be stimulated from a major gaming resort project. Please consider where the new payrolls and vendor incomes will be spent. We'd rather have those monies be spent in an economic depressed community where it is needed most, Broome County. The employees working at Traditions will be spending their payroll in the Greater Binghamton Community where Lago employees will be driving back and forth from Rochester area as indicated by their recent Lago job fair. Tioga County employees will most likely get again the source from across the border in Pennsylvania. I've been here in Broome County and watched EJ leave. I watched IBM come and I watched IBM leave and we need something. I was here when things were booming and I hope when I leave they'll be booming and I think that the Traditions at the Glen would help that immensely. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Edward Mitchell. Santa Zwig. Santa or Ed.

Male: I will be speaking for Santa today. She had to return and asked me to take her spot My name is John Husar.

Kevin Law: Were you scheduled to speak later?

John Husar: I was not.

Kevin Law: Alright John.

John Husar: My name is John Husar I speak in favor of Traditions Resort and Casino. I wear many hats. I'm a father, I'm a loyal husband, I'm a volunteer firefighter in our community, I'm a retired paramedic, I'm a small business owner in the Endwell area. One of my clients is Traditions Resort. I do some consulting for them. If you haven't seen our shirts that we're wearing today and I'll ask my group if you could please stand and turn around so your backs are facing them. The Logo on the back for the Think Big came out of my studio. It was my brain child. I wanted to tell you a short story of how that got there today, that's probably a little different than what you're hearing. This project is not about the Walsh family. You heard today they're wonderful folks and they've done a lot for our community, but this is not about them. This really isn't even about bringing a casino to Broome County. What this is about is the revitalization of Broome County. We've done the marketing and web development, video production for Traditions for several years and a few months back, almost a little over a year ago they invited us to be part of this process. And as we sat there and I listened to Mr. Peter Walsh and Bill Walsh and Matt Walsh talk about the project and what they envisioned. I started doodling on a pad and I said, "Wow this is big". It's really big because it has the opportunity to affect so many people in our community as well as our region. And I kept doodling a little bit more and I said it's bigger because it's going to go beyond our region. You heard people talk about the spill over effect. You've heard people talk about what it can do for a depressed economy. What you haven't heard them talk about a lot is the generational thing. I have a 13 year old daughter. She's going to benefit from this project. I hope to see my grandchildren and

my great grandchildren benefit from this project. We haven't seen a lot of development in our community in many years. The days of Endicott Johnson are gone. The days of IBM are gone. As much as it pains me to say, they're not coming back. So this is our opportunity right now to do something enormous. To do something really big. I would urge you to look at all the data. There's a lot of things that were brought up to you today, some correct, some that I know first hand or is incorrect. A lot of it is in the RFA response. This is the right project in the right community. I was brief, hopefully I was bright and now I'll be gone.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Rick Papar.

Rick Papar: My name is Rick Papar I'm president of the Harness Horse Association of Central New York that represents the men and women who race at the Vernon Down's racetrack and casino. I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak before this committee today. I think we need to talk about the past before we talk about the future. When the VLT legislation was passed over 10 years ago the legislators had the foresight to include the horseracing industry and sharing the revenue being generated. Over the years, there's been a resurgence in the industry. There are over 30,000 jobs directly and indirectly related to racing. Farms that were shuttered years ago have been refurbished. New train centers have been built. The breeding industry has seen an increase in business. New York breed yearlings are being sold at auction constantly bring high prices, not only in the sales in New York but also in the sales in Kentucky and Pennsylvania. This is all due to the fact that the horseracing industry shares in the revenue which has increased purchases in earning potential for all these horses. Any new casino legislation should also include shared revenue with the industry. So continue to grow and flourish. We are now at a crossroads. With the addition of 4 new casinos to be added in Upstate New York, there have been studies that showed a casino built within 70 miles of Vernon Downs would cause a drop in revenue of 20%. What does that mean for the men and women that race at Vernon Downs? It means a 20% decrease in their earning potential. No one in this room would want a 20% decrease in their earning potential. Our purse structure is based on revenue. No one can afford a 20% decrease. It would also mean a loss of jobs and a loss of tax revenue for the town of Vernon and the County of Oneida. The governor said that the new casinos would be a way to stimulate the Upstate economy. This is not stimulating upstate when it draws jobs and tax revenue from one county and send it to another. When choosing sites for the new casinos, if any of the sites in question are going to draw revenue away from an existing casino and the horse industry is not included in the law and share in this new revenue source, the net site should not be considered. The economy in central New York is not recovered as in other parts of the state. The manufacturing jobs are all but gone. We cannot afford to lose anymore jobs or tax revenue because of a bad decision on the location of a new casino that will cannibalize revenue from an existing casino.

Kevin Law: Thanks Rick. Shane Williams. Kay Straw. Cindy Garlic Lorenzetti.

Cindy Garlic Lorenzetti: Good afternoon. Thank you very much for allowing me a few minutes to speak. I'm going to say that I am a member of the Seneca County Board of Supervisors and as a lady previously said this is not a political issue and it is not. I sat back there and have been

listening most of the afternoon and you have asked us not to try to go over the same that we've been seeing so I will try not to do that. I was put into office by the people that I serve, the town of Fayette which is the largest down in Seneca County. It's all agricultural. 64 miles of road and most of the people who live there are farmers. They have contacted me many, many times and said that they are totally in favor of the Lago Racino Casino Resort where they promise to use local products, local products like cheese, milk, livestock, the wineries are going to be able to boast their wines and I know that all my people are totally in support of it. On the other hand the Seneca County consists of approximately 34,000 people. I'm not sure how many people actually reside in the town of Tyre. You guys what maybe 1000? Okay and I did take calls from many of the Tyre residents in opposition before this casino was proposed at the county level and I feel for them because change is always difficult whenever it happens to whoever it is happening to. But I do know one thing, it's not about just Seneca County. I stand up here and we do need jobs. It's not just Seneca County that needs jobs. The Lago Resort will promote the Finger Lakes region which is many counties, it's Wayne County, Ontario County, Yates County, Cayuga County so it's not just about our county and our small group of people. I think that our area is beautiful. We have natural resources . we have the lakes and I think it would just promote what we already have. Now the other thing I'd like to speak out on that is a little bit different is the Wilmot Family. They are not the typical New Jersey group or Atlantic City Group coming in to put a Casino in. The Wilmot's live 40 minutes away from the proposed side. The Wilmot family also have worked the last 20 years in healthcare. So I'm very, very familiar with the Wilmot Cancer Center which they founded after the untimely death of Mr. James Wilmot. It's been in existence for 40 years. It's very, very well renown and they continue to support that. I also see what they've done to East View Mall and the amount of jobs and sales tax revenue that they have brought to that county which is Ontario County so I am supportive of the family, supportive of the Lago Resort Casino and thank you very much and god bless you for the dedication that you're doing today.

Kevin Law: Thank you very much. Thank you Cindy. Next Keith Barney. Merka Herzog, oh I'm sorry. What is your name?

John Burns, Jr: My name is John Burns, Jr.

Dennis Glazer: Did he ask you to do it?

John Burns, Jr: Yes he did.

Kevin Law: John Burns, okay.

John Burns, Jr: Okay so I am a real estate broker in the city of Binghamton. I'm from the city of Binghamton. My family has lived there since 1845 and I don't work for, I'm speaking on behalf of Traditions. I am in support of Traditions Casino. I do not work for anybody that has anything to do with it. I have observed the Walsh family for decades and I've watched what they do. And there's a saying, behavior never lies. And we've watched what this family has done. They've done some amazing things in our community. I'm always very impressed by he quality of what

they produce. If somebody says they're going to build a development of townhouses and all of a sudden you see junk, you see nothing but really high end quality work out of these people. Everything that I've seen come out of them has been top shelf. I have all the confidence in the world that they would be producing what they say they will produce. As far as the need to have it in our community, we have been, you know, everybody in Upstate New York has been hammered. We're all saying the same thing. Of course I'm going to speak for our end of things, but as a real estate broker I can tell you that our community cannot withstand any more tax increases. We're not going to make it. We're not making it now. So many people are losing their homes and selling their homes because they can't afford the taxes anymore and there's no one to buy them because no one wants to own a house with high taxes. And especially the higher end of the market. So I just think that when you're considering where you're going to put this and you're factoring in the need for it, I know that farm areas need help, all the different areas need help. Our industrial base has been slaughtered over the last few decades and we have a lot of housing, a lot stronger population that needs this kind of support and the help it will give our schools and the help that it will give us in tax relief I think is essential for us right now. I don't know how we're going to get beyond it. And I understand the position you're in like with all the different things to weight but I'm just telling you from somebody that's lived in the community his whole life and generations of my family have been here, that's it's never been this tough before and it's something that we really need in our community. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Merka Herzog. Merek Herzog? Either Merka or Merek. Betty Holt.

Betty Holt: Hi I'm the executive director of the Harness Horse Breeders of New York State and I felt compelled to drive out here today to express what these casinos means to the harness horse breeding industry and the thoroughbreds in part as well. Sitting here so many things have gone through my mind today. Things that I hadn't really thought about. Just so you know I grew up in Chemung, New York and we got rich when we went on welfare. There was 5 of us so I know what the southern tier deals with, I know what the economy is like. So that being said, I get the picture. I'm here today in favor of Tioga Downs. I have worked with Jeff Gural for over 10 years with the harness hoarse breeders. He's on our board. He made a lot of promises to a lot of people when he built the Tioga Downs Racino. I cannot think of one thing that he has promised that he hasn't kept. He contributes to the local economy in times of hardship. He has supported the breeders. He has his own farm as I do. I've heard a lot about the farm land. Our breeders purchase the products that are produced by this farmland. Our program, the harness, I'm sorry, the Breeding industry in New York is approximately a \$4 billion industry. If these casinos are placed in someplace near the tracks with this discretionary money that's available, they're going to destroy the breeding industry and governor has put language in its budget in part protecting the breeding industry but we all know that things change from year to year. We're concerned that in a few years down the road that those safeguards won't be in place. We feel that at this point to protect the horse breeding industry in New York the casinos should be at the racetracks. We get 1 1/4 % from the racetracks from the BLT money. That supports the entire breeding industry in New York State and we would like you to take that into consideration. It's not jut about what it brings in terms of positives but what it can take away. And again the jobs created

will be for any casino no matter where they are. The casinos that are not at the racetracks will put in part and very probably will destroy the breeding industry in New York. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Rachel Shoemaker.

Rachel Shoemaker: Hello. I'm Rachel Shoemaker and I have a letter that I was asked to read so I will read that. To the New York State Gaming Commission Siting Board, we are writing concerning the proposed siting of a proposed casino in the town of Tyre. As the pastors and elders of a church body that has existed in Seneca Falls for over 100 years we have been and continue to be deeply, personally involved in the social, spiritual and economic wellbeing of families in our community. We believe that a gambling facility would be devastating on all three fronts. Gambling is, for some, simply a recreational exercise. Fun had with discretionary income they can afford to lose. But the vast majority of the money spent does not come from those who can afford it. Gambling, like the lottery, exacts a disproportionate toll on the weak and the poor. Those who are most subject the enticement of unearned riches. Of course, the gaming business model requires that most players lose and for a great many the results if financial disaster. We are equally concerned with the inevitable increase in prostitution and organization crime that necessarily follows this industry. We're not suggesting that Wilmot or any other legitimate operator is involved in or promoting these things but that they are natural byproducts of a business that is based on what was called once upon a time and accurately a vice. We are aware of employment and economic arguments made in favor of a casino and their counter arguments. Doubtless there is some truth on both sides but regardless, our concern is that we are selling our souls for a mess of pottage. The destructive efforts of gambling on families and the general social fabric of local communities is not worth whatever gains might be realized in tax revenues or employment. We are also aware that several casinos are going to be built in New York State. Perhaps that can't be stopped and perhaps we can stop one from being built in our county but do we really want to swing wide the gate, roll out the red carpet and invite a destroyer of individuals and families right into our living room? As leaders in our community we would say no. Sincerely Ray Torry, Pastor David Vitim and Pastor Scott VanKirk.

I was asked to read this and at first I was like why would I come up and read this I really stink at public speaking and it is something I don't want to do, so I was like, well am I doing to do this. I have to figure out why I'm going to do this. So I'm not doing this because somebody asked me to I am doing it because I realized that as a citizen that has an opportunity to speak I should speak if I have an opportunity. And...

Dennis Glazer: So you agree with them?

Rachel Shoemaker: Yes I do agree with that and I'm going to be 19 years old in 1 week and I am one of 9 children and my dad has had a job just fine supporting us. It's not, I mean it's an awesome job but we get through and we have no debt but I just wanted to say to encourage other people that I've heard a lot coming about jobs like this casino will bring jobs but from my observant view that I have I feel me personally I have had plenty of job opportunities. The doors swing wide left and right and so I feel like my generation has been just a very lazy generation and I feel like we need to be productive citizens and try to go and get those jobs. And I feel like

there's lots of job openings but they're rather not. They're afraid to, you know, step out and do that. I thank you very much for the time you've given. There's a lot I do wish I could say but right now I'm not going to.

Kevin Law: You did a great job and you can submit the letter to our staff over here if you want and we're lucky to have people like you in your generation as our future leaders. Marilyn Packer.

Marilyn Packer: Hi, I'm Marilyn Packer and I have a prepared statement thing here but I crossed most of it off because you asked us not to repeat things.

Dennis Glazer: Thank you.

Marilyn Packer: So I kind of feel for what you're going through here today but I am here of course for Traditions and studies have been done by professionals which show how this project would help this region thrive in so many ways. Obviously many areas if not all areas can use more jobs but this would be such a wonderful opportunity for talented people who live already in the area who want to stay in our area who struggle to have a good quality of life. Someone said earlier, it's almost like New York State seems like they owe us our turn or something like that but it is our time to be given a shot in the arm and a chance to revitalize. The Walsh family and the current Traditions at the Glen have already demonstrated that they run their business with integrity and class. Their golf course is impeccable, their spas are beyond measure in this region. Their accommodations and restaurants are already some of the nicest in the area. I'm 62 years old and I've lived in Binghamton my entire life. I've seen the hustle and bustle of a vibrant area dwindle year after year, decade after decade. You've heard this over and over again. The triples cities used to be the area of opportunity with IBM, Endicott and other manufacturing places. And I have a daughter that lives in the area and I have one that's moved to California for what she called better opportunity. But we deserve a chance to shine again I think and we would like to expound on all the resources that we already have here. It would be such a huge positive impact for so many people in our area and I hope that you'll consider that and we'll get it. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you very much. Back to the other list. Douglas Barton.

Douglas Barton: Thank you for this opportunity. I'm Doug Barton and prior to my retirement in June of 2013 I served as Director of Economic Development and Planning for Tioga County. Over 9 years ago I received a call from Jeff Gural saying he had an idea for a project in a defunct quarter horse track in Nichols, New York. We sent up a meeting and I prepared for what usually comes from these meetings. Some one asking for a breakdown of what tax breaks we would offer if they were to do a project in Tioga County. To my surprise that was not the purpose of the meeting. Mr. Gural wanted help in setting up a public meeting to present his plan. We organized and advertised the meeting, as you might expect, there was standing room only crowd with many skeptics and concerned citizens in attendance. A project presentation was done and all of the many questions were answered. Mr. Gural never requested a tax break. He only asked

that we assist them in working through the permitting and planning process and also to help keep the public and local officials informed. He asked that we monitor problems and concerns so that he could address them as the project moved forward.

Dennis Glazer: Sir would you find a seat please.

Douglas Barton: All local issues were addressed and no false promises were made. Mr. Gural delivered and today we have a successful, sustainable and community accepted project. Logic and experience tells me he can do this again. I consult with other entities and in February I was contacted by Tioga Downs to ask if I would be interested in doing community outreach for them. Over the past several months I've had discussions with business people, community service organizations, economic development experts and elected officials in 6 surrounding counties. Not one person or group I spoke with had a negative comment about current Tioga Downs operations. Almost all felt the siting of a casino report in Tioga Downs makes the most sense and I have to ask in the case of Traditions, does it seem like a good decision and good policy to locate a casino within a 5 minute ride to a university? I would like to share with you why I believe Tioga Downs is the logical choice for the southern tier region relative to the goals of the license application. Governor Cuomo has often stated that he realizes the need for increased economic development in the southern tier and he wants to encourage that. One way to do that would be the siting of a casino resort in the southern tier. I struggle to see how this goal is realized with another casino on the New York State Thruway in the northern half of New York. With the recent closure of large casinos in Atlantic City, the logical choice is a project that is realistic and sustainable. The Tioga Downs proposal is sized properly and does not trade jobs for jobs with any other venues. Both Lago and Traditions would be trading jobs with other facilities. Tioga Downs is the logical choice because it is the applicant that has total community support. The host communities and their residents are in favor of locating a destination resort in Nichols. Tioga Downs is the only choice that does not have any organized community opposition. This is the result of an operation from day 1 that was transparent and honest with the community. Most recently a coalition of members from four counties was created to seek input during the application process. At one meeting the coalition offered advice and ideas to Tioga Downs officials to have a business fair to ask businesses to come in and present their services and products. This attracted 40 businesses. Tioga Downs is the logical choice due to its central location in the true southern tier region. They currently employ people from over 12 counties including Broome, Tioga, Chemung and Steuben. Resort in Binghamton would not likely be able to impact the job market in Chemung County, a county that now provides about 20% of the employee base at Tioga Downs and has a correction to earlier speakers, 77% of the Tioga Downs employees reside in New York State. Tioga Downs is the logical choice due to past experience. Jeff Gural and his team have proven that they can run a class operation while keeping the local community in mind. Tioga Downs is the logical choice building on their proven track record and investment of over \$40 million in a defunct racetrack. Tioga Downs is the logical choice, they will be up and running while others are still working through their permitting and environmental impact issues. Tioga Downs is the logical choice because they offer a horse racing venue that not only diversifies the resorts entertainment opportunities but provides jobs and supports agriculture and agritourism. Tioga Downs is simply the logical choice with the best opportunity

for success in reaching the goals for the Gaming Commission. I thank you very much for this opportunity.

Kevin Law: Thank you. James Corella.

James Corella: Good afternoon my name is James Corella I am currently unemployed but I worked 12 years at the Turning Stone Casino in Verona. I'm for the Lago casino in Seneca County.

Dennis Glazer: What did you do at Turning Stone?

James Corella: I was a dealer for 12 years. Black jack, craps, roulette. And the area down there really boomed with the casino. Hotels went up a lot around the casino. Restaurants and I think Seneca County would really thrive with a casino. I've been unemployed for about 2 years now, trouble finding a job but if the casino comes in it would probably help me and others, and also create some stability too. There are jobs out there but a lot of times people are living paycheck to paycheck or living on money they haven't made yet basically and this would probably help quiet a bit. Centrally located just off the New York State Thruway between Syracuse and Rochester. You've got the wineries in the area. The outlet mall is right there. Toronto is close by with millions of people there. So this would be a great opportunity. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you James and good luck to you. Martha Serabrae.

Martha Serabrae: Hi good afternoon. Thank you for this opportunity. We're tag teaming this afternoon. We both represent the host county and towns.

Kevin Law: So you're both speaking less than 5 minutes.

Martha Serabrae: We're going to talk fast. I don't know if any of you realize it but the 138 acre property with Tioga Downs is now was originally a quarter horse track which was closed down in its third season. There were several attempts to reopen the track which included the involvement of the then Governor Mario Cuomo who flew in on a helicopter to sign a bill that would reestablish quarter horse racing on that site. Despite all that work, that never happened. And then came along Jeff Gural in 2006 he cut the ribbon and opened Tioga Downs. It took several years to perfect the organization editing his leadership staff until he was able to find the best management for the property. Tioga Downs is now a smooth running machine. They offer harness racing, simulcast betting over 800 BLTs, 2 bars, a restaurant, concerts, family events and the list goes on. Over the years Jeff has made numerous improvements to the property and added new opportunities and venues to attract people from all over the area. It's important to know that the process of making this venture has taken a lot of time and a lot of financial investment and along with an ability to build a strong positive relationship without local communities. At no time since Tioga Downs has been established has there been any issues with the Sheriff's Department impacting in a negative way. I am Chair of the Tioga County Legislature and I can speak from experience that all of our experiences there have been positive. In my opinion Tioga

Downs is the best choice for the region. The location is ideal, they are experienced qualified and ready to go with all the construction projects and improvements to an already established site. Logically it does not make sense to have 2 casinos located within 50 miles of each other. One of them eventually will go down and I don't think Tioga Downs will be it. Tioga County is a rural upstate community. Our population is modest and we have limited development. However the people in Tioga County are eager and excited about the opportunity presented before us. Jeff Gural came with an idea and he made it work. He brought jobs to the area, increased sales tax and on numerous occasions came to the aid of the people of Tioga County. The most logical practical and best decision is for Tioga Downs to be given a full casino license. Along with the other members of the Tioga County Legislature, we are all in for Tioga Downs.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

Barb Cornell: I'm Barb Cornell and I'm Deputy Supervisor for the town of Nichols. The facility that's located at Tioga Downs is really the most centrally located in regard to the existence. The central location for Tioga Downs gives access not only to New York State but also into Pennsylvania. The amount of money that Mr. Gural has already generated for New York State and the State Education Fund is great. The Downs and Vernon Downs have been brought back to life by the foresight and determination of Mr. Gural and his team with a willingness to take the risk that was necessary have been really well received and the results have been well done. Tioga Downs is more than just gambling. They offer many different forms of family entertainment. They will expand these offerings with the new facilities that are already under construction. Many people simply enjoy watching the horses and also the racing and training. Tioga Downs has become a very important part of the Nichols Community, an asset that would be devastating to lose. On Tioga Downs original opening day in June of 2006 Nichols was hit by, at the time the worst flood in their history. Before the Downs had even collected a time of revenue, Mr. Gural had his employees at the Downs helping the community recover from this devastation at his own expense. The effort was dwarfed by the assistance provided after the devastating flood of 2011. Tioga Downs has become an integral part of our community in every conceivable way. They have worked well with our municipality and we welcome them as a neighbor and a good community provider.

Kevin Law: Good timing. Good thank you very much. Starr Wilkinson. You're on.

Starr Wilkinson: Hi, Starr Wilkinson. I'm a resident of Seneca County and a tax payer. I believe Seneca County is the perfect place to put the casino. It will draw in great revenue, tourism, people will come visit our shops, they'll visit our restaurants and our hotels. The Lago Casino and Resort is looking at around 200 or 207 rooms or something like that I believe correctly. That's not a lot of rooms on a casino so all of our other hotels in the area will be filled. They'll utilize our diners, our stores, our shops, our gas stations. I believe our area is in desperate need of good paying jobs. I am currently unemployed. I spent 34 years employed by one company, it was a good employee. When I left there I had 12 weeks sick time, 7 weeks of vacation built up. I went to work all the time. I did a good job. There were cut backs and I got hit. Been 9 months unemployed. I have not been able to find a job. For that matter I've not even gotten an

interview. I'm on unemployment. Like I said I'm a tax payer in Seneca County. We need jobs. We need things that are going to make our area grow. I'm also a tax payer in Ontario County and a tax payer in Wayne County. I have property in other counties. I believe due to the location right on the northern tip of Seneca County you're bordering Wayne County, beautiful Sodus Bay up there. Ontario County has all kinds of shopping. There's beautiful state parks, we have our lakes. I just think that opportunities are endless. The wineries. All throughout all the regions. I believe that I mean it would bring people in I think from Canada, from out of state, Massachusetts. They'll visit our wineries, they'll spend their money and they'll give jobs to this area. And I think it's extremely important. I think the Finger Lakes itself has the opportunity to turn into the Napa Valley of the east coast and I think that this casino and resort is going to bring that opportunity to life and bring those jobs and bring the people to our area. And that's really all I have to say.

Kevin Law: Good well that was enough. Thank you very much. Lee Spadine.

Lee Spadine: Good evening, my name is Lee Spadine I'm here to talk briefly about the proposed casino at Traditions. I'm not with a group nor did I come up with free transportation, meals or drinks, I'm just here on my own. Where I live would be adjacent to the proposed Traditions Casino. In fact the road I live on will now be directly connected to the casino. When we bought our home just 3 years ago, it was a new built home, it is part of a complex built by the Walsh Family owners of Traditions. We were sold on the idea of a quiet neighborhood with nature preserve along one side and a private 3 hole golf course on the other side. As you can imagine, now building a casino in our backyard will have a significant effect on my family, my neighbors and not a positive effect. Traditions began their presentation to you just a few weeks ago in Albany with a video of our area. What they showed you were many empty building in our community. They went on to say that their casino would revitalize the southern tier. Would not be a better idea to take one of those empty building and make that into their casino? That would be revitalization. How is putting up a new 5 story building in the middle of the community going to affect any one of those empty buildings that they showed you? In many of Traditions presentations they made the statement that Broome County overwhelmingly voted to support proposition 1. I agree we did but here are some facts that are not said, just 3 weeks prior to the vote, our Broome County Executive, Debbie Preston where Traditions is located stood before a large crowd and stated, "I support Proposition 1 and urge all Broome County residents to join me in voting for it on November 5th. Positive economic development at Tioga Downs would be great for Tioga County, Broome County, and our entire region." She asked us to vote for Proposition 1 for Tioga Downs. That's what we did. One week after the positive vote Traditions rolls out the elaborate plan which we all know was not conceived in just this 1 week. This information was known prior to the vote and was purposely withheld from the people that were asked vote and to make a decision. I believe this was wrong. I would say it even generates a great ethics debate. Why did Traditions do this? They knew if the people had all the information the vote would have been significantly different. so they made a decision to hide the information. In fact Donna Lapardo our New York State Assemblywoman received so many negative phone calls that after the announcement in April, she did a mailing to her constituents and asked the question regarding the casino at Traditions. The results were significantly different than the Proposition 1

vote. Only 37% stated that they wanted a casino in Broome County, only 37%. The proposed project is being wedged in the middle of a community. As I mentioned earlier all along the backside of this project is an environmental conservation education area. As you can imagine, with an addition of a 5 story casino complex, this will have a significant impact on everything within this conservation area. Then there's the negative impact on all of us that live around the casino. Today we live on a 3 hole golf course. In the proposal this becomes a parking lot for "thousands" of cars for the outdoor venue. When you put all this together you can understand why studies have show that those living adjacent to a casino can expect a 15 to 20% reduction in their home values. As part of the proposal is the outdoor concert venue. Stated in their proposal they'd hold up to 6 events each summer with up to 35,000 people. For those of us who live in Upstate New York we know our summers are 10 to 12 weeks long so that works out to basically every other week they'd be holding a concert. We've already been told that they would have to close the streets around our homes for these events. And concerts are just not a few hour event. You have the tailgating that takes place in the parking lots that's behind our homes. You have the pre-bands, you have the bands, and then you have the time that it takes to get 35,000 people out of the area. Don't get me wrong, if somebody wants to do a concert once a year you learn how to deal with it. But every other weekend I just think that's a lot to ask the neighbors. In summary, there are many issues and concerns with this project within the community. I'm a lifelong member of this community and I can honestly say I have never seen an issue divide our community as much as this. I'm not against the idea of a casino I go to casinos. I just believe that shoehorning this project in a residential community is wrong. I truly believe there are better solutions for a southern tier casino than the Traditions proposal. Thank you for your time.

Kevin Law: Great, thank you. Thank you Lee. Alright folks let me tell you where we are and what we've got left and what we're going to do. We've already heard from 102 of you today which means we've listened to 385 people in the last 3 days. that's a lot of hearings. And we'll hit 400 by the time we're done tonight. We were supposed to now break for 30 minutes, but we're only going to break for 15 so we could try to get to everybody that's left on the list who signed up even if it's going to be brief and we still have some other folks who are registered to speak at 6:00 as well. And then when we're done, we'll wrap up and we'll sort of give you a summary of where we are and what's the process going forward. So in 15 minutes we'll regroup and the game plan is to finish at 7:00 p.m.