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Kevin Law: Ok couple of housekeeping items and some things that may be repetitive for those who were here this morning. Again, my name is Kevin Law. I'm the chair of the siting board. With me is Paul Francis and Dennis Glazor to my right. Bill Thompson is uhh will be here any minute. He's to my left. And, hello? Shh. Again my name is Kevin Law, I'm the chair. To my right is Paul Francis and Dennis Glazor. Bill Thompson will be joining us to our left and Stewart Benowitz is on the phone and will be joining us shortly. As we discussed this morning. We have more speakers than we have time so to the extent you can be brief. If everybody who wanted to speak spoke, we'd be here til three in the morning and at eight p.m. we are living to go to Ithaca because we have hearings tomorrow. So to the extent you could be brief and not use up your whole five minutes. That will allow for more people to be heard. We have two sets of lists we're working off of; those who registered online over the last couple of weeks and then people who registered today and which was on a first come first serve basis and as I said we're not gonna take anymore names because there's no way we're even gonna get to everybody on this list. But we are gonna do our best so if you could brief and to the point that would be great. And keep your comments, what we've been doing all morning, everybody's been great and we will continue to treat each other with respect. Be quiet when people are talking and not interrupt people when they are speaking. With that we'll go right to the agenda. Al Butzel and Roger Friedman sharing their time. Is that accurate?

Al Butzel: Well I'll probably take all your time but Roger's gonna speak later.

Kevin Law: Uhh that's not what we have.

Al Butzel: Chairman Law and members of the commission name is Albert Butzel I'm an attorney representing the Sterling Forest Partnership in opposing the casino development proposed for and in holding by Sterling Forest Park by Genting America. The partner opposes the development because it is the wrong thing at the wrong place. There is no justification for siting a massive commercial generator of traffic, crowds, and environmental disturbance amidst the natural fabric and extraordinary landscape of Sterling Forest Park. Since nineteen eighty eight the Sterling Forest Partnership has been a leader first and the establishment of Sterling Forest State Park and then in protecting it and opposing proposals for inappropriate development in the park. From two thousand to two thousand and six it lead the effort to defeat plane commercial development and that as in this case would have been sited on and in holding in the park. That effort was successful. The land addition was acquired by the state and it's now added to the park. The partnership intends to be equally fierce in opposing the casino development proposed by Genting. It will participate in all included administrative proceedings required in connection with the permit applications and out of the necessary approvals whether these are at the local county, state, or federal level. It will bring litigation to challenge the permits and approvals that may be granted. It will work politically to secure the support of the key elected officials who have the authority to stop the development. It will be tenacious in these efforts and it will not give up. Should the board approve of reckoning the Sterling Forest site, I can say with some confidence that even if the casino were elderman with it be built, there would be many years before it opened its doors. To begin with the partnership with the support of many other organizations will oppose required environmental approvals and will challenge in court anything

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that may be granted. This includes opposition under the State Environmental Quality Review Act focusing on among other things the illegal segmentation of the project from the proposed New York Thruway Interchange which is one of the cynique known with the development. It will also present compelling evidence and opposition to the required applications to DEC when other agencies are approval for water related issues including the adequacy, the supplies, and the down streaming packs on with withdrawals and discharges. The partnership will challenge gaming's plan to build a throughway interchange at Route 106 which despite the company's claims will clearly infringe on parkland requiring approvals by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission which has already rejected such a request as well as by the New York State Legislature and the U.S. Department of the Interior. The partnership will also challenge the adequacy of the gaming design for the throughway interchange under federal law. It will ask the office of parks and recreation and historic preservation and the Department of Interior to deny approvals under historic preservation and other laws. It will oppose the required wetlands applications to the U.S. Economy Coriventioners and will demand the preparation of a federal environmental impact statement because of the many required approvals. No doubt the gaming group is used to getting its way but the strength of the opposition to the Sterling Forest Casino is both broad and deep. The partnership is committed to leading that effort but as the many other groups who have spoken and will spoke against the proposal today underscore the partnership will not be going it alone. The record of New York conservation battles is clear. Whenever there is united opposition focusing on defeating a proposal that threatens a natural resource the state wide or national importance, even the best funded applications do not prevail. This was the case with Connor's proposed power plant and Storm King Mountain on the Hudson River. It was the case with Marriot's plan to build a commercial hotel at Lake Minnewaska and the Shwangunks. It was the case when the state committee planned to fill the Hudson River on the west side of Manhattan for the Westway Highway Project. It was the case with the proposal of the same

Kevin Law: Time's up.

Al Butzel: cement company to build a massive plant and it will be the case with this proposal as well.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

Al Butzel: We urge you not to include it in your recommendations. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. As I mentioned before we mean no disrespect when we cut people off at five minutes. It's more of respect to everybody else in the room because if we let everybody speak one minute over that means we'll get less of you to be able to speak. So we're holding everybody, elected official or not, to five minutes and preferably under. Thank you. Next is Ward D. Todd.

Ward Todd: Good afternoon. Thank you. My name is Ward Todd; I'm the president the Ulster County Chamber of Commerce. I'm speaking today in support of the proposed Nevele Resort in Ellenville. Our chamber, representing twelve hundred local businesses employing more than

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twenty five thousand local workers offers our complete and total support of this project. The mission of the Ulster Chamber is to promote sustainable economic development and growth throughout our region. We believe this is especially important for the Village of Ellenville, the Town of Warwarsing, and all of the surrounding Catskill Mountain towns that had been dependent largely on tourism for their economic health, some since the mid-1800s. We have watched especially in the decades since the 1960s as the Catskill has fallen behind other regions throughout the northeast and lost our market share of travel visitors. In that time period, the Ellenville area has deteriorated dramatically. Where once there was a bustling hammock and strong economy, there now exists vacant storefronts and record high unemployment. As the spokesperson for the largest business advocacy in our region I've spoken at many public hearings over the years where I've heard the words "community character" mentioned over and over again in siting why a particular project should not be built in a particular area. I'd hear things like "it doesn't fit," "it's not in keeping with the community character." I'm here to testify today, if ever there was a project that fits with the character of a community, it is the Nevele. The Village of Ellenville indeed has a proud tourist based economy. Back in the day on a typical summer weekend in Ellenville there was so many tourists walking on the sidewalks you'd be forced to walk in the streets. Ellenville stores and shops were open and busy. Area residents had jobs. The region absolutely thrived. We believe that if the Nevele is selected as one of the four sites for a casino; new stores, shops, and restaurants will open and they too will thrive. And the development of the Nevele will be in keeping with community character of Ellenville. What the Nevele project also offers is an example of the best possible type of economic development where a building site is re-used for the exact purpose that it was developed in the first place. The Nevele project maintains the heritage of our region and we believe that it complements the site and the region appropriately. We believe the Nevele Resort Project will bring jobs, tax revenue, and economic vitality back to the Town of Warwarsing and throughout Ulster County. We believe this project will enhance the attractiveness of Ulster County to once again be a world class vacation destination. And finally we commend the developers of the Nevele for their support of other local business, both directly and indirectly. They are promising wherever possible to buy their goods, products, and services locally. To hire local residents and to stimulate local business activity. We think the Nevele stands out for these important reasons: the Nevele brings back a decimated tourist area, the Nevele fits the community, the Nevele is situated at the site of a former resort, the Nevele will hire local and buy local and there is widespread local support. In fact in my history of working in economic development in the region I have never before seen the amount of support for a project such as exists for the Nevele. There is unanimous bipartisan support from the Ellenville Village Board, the Town of Warwarsing Town Board, the Ulster County Legislature, and the Ulster County Executive. This has not happened before in Ulster County, ever. The Ulster County Chamber of Commerce urges the New York State gaming commission to approve the Nevele Resort in Ulster County and help us to rebuild this once proud region. Thank you very much.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Thank you Ward. Up next is Aquanetta Wright. And while she's coming up be aware that we are having some technical difficulties with our webcasting. Again it's not our problems it's something in the...

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Paul Francis: Ethernet.

Kevin Law: Ethernet right. So we're trying to work it out so we are recording everything that's being done so we will have that and we will post that on the website but right now we are not live streaming. For those who are trying to watch themselves. But for those actually who are trying to watch us from afar they obviously can't right now. But we're working on it and hopefully...

Bill Thompson: Can they hear?

Kevin Law: No there's no audio or video. Ok with that, Aquanetta.

Aquanetta Wright: Hi I'm Aquanetta Wright and I am a property owner in the city of Newburgh. I'm here actually to support the highway the resorts will Hudson Valley which will be in Montgomery. I'm so excited about that that I have to actually calm myself down because it is if nothing else has brought some hope to many people in the area. And I'm just gonna say up front why I really support it. A lot of the projects will actually benefit a particular area, a particular community. The property that is proposed for Montgomery, in my opinion because of the proximity of where it's located I believe it will have an impact on not just a small area but something vast. Not just Montgomery but also because it will be able to help the City of Newburgh which is in dire straits, and I'll talk about that in a moment, but also the City of Middletown as well as the City of Wajovas and those the three cities that are in Orange County and unfortunately they are in need of a little of assistance. And I'm trying to be nice by saying a little bit of assistance. So I own an entertainment company. I actually did the longest running jazz series in Orange County. I have quite a few projects that are shovel-ready to go around and I'll tell you hope is what this resort would bring to me because it is, it's gonna allow us to really really grow. It started in the City of Newburgh and I was very politically active and that's how I got involved really in trying to decide what can I do to help the city. Because it was desperate and I needed to give people a venue, an outlet to be able to have a quality of life. And so, you know how much you know about the City of Newburgh, it's in a blight state. People are really just stagnant, hopeless. It's just its its really a terrible terrible situation and I think that to be able to build this resort would bring obviously the whole economic development piece. I mean there's just so many obvious things that we know it would assist but Newburgh has become, like I said hopeless. It's a city that it's been in a downward spiral of a cycle, a life cycle for a very long time and this is actually a project that I think that now has gotten a buzz going that we actually have had an opportunity to do something a little bit different. So now that I've gotten completely away from my presentation. I just wanted to say that Newburgh is the all American city. It's also been quite a place crossroads to America. We also know that is has the highest crime in New York State and that's actually been documented so that's very important. Another thing it's also become the dumping ground for New York State prisons. One of the things I love about the resort would plan to be able to engage people of color, people of disabilities, veterans, they are looking to really be very inclusive and all of that we haven't been in the City of Newburgh. And so I really support them because they have an aggressive strategy. They have a proven track record. They also have the funds and at the end of the day it's all about the money and they have

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the money. And I'm really really happy that we know that they're not gonna get stuck in the middle of a project they can't do the things that they say they're gonna do. So I'm very happy about that and as somebody that's committed to doing business with the local businesses. As a business owner I really am impressed at the fact that they wanna do business with us little small guys and so that's very important. So I'm not gonna take up much more time. I just want to say that I believe the resorts will actually in Hudson Valley that they will promote responsible gambling, responsible consumption, responsible spending, and responsible social behaviors because I trust them and I trust in what they say. So with all of that I am gonna say that I believe that we have to move in a positive direction that resorts will in Hudson Valley we've gotta move with the cheese. And so with that I hope that you hope, I hope that you might to move that resorts will Hudson Valley.

Kevin Law: Thank you. John Buckite.

John Buckite: Good afternoon. So my name is John Buckite and I'm a life-long resident of Greenwood Lake and for some two decades I've owned a small business in Suffern. And with your kind permission I'm here to offer my modest comments in support of the Sterling Forest Resort Project. And I do so want to say as a local home owner, commuter who drives over the roads that will be affected by the project and someone who simply likes walking in the woods. And I offer that project my support for three reasons which are entitled trees, traffic, and water and I'll speak about traffic first. When you think about the project and I think of it from someone who for six or seven days a week for the last two decades drives over Route 17A and Route 17 into Suffern and back and like many small business owners I do this on weekends and again and again I deal with the horrific traffic that which exists as a result of the Renaissance Festival, the Forest of Fear, and other projects that take place on that land right now. I firmly believe that the combination of the new interchange with the throughway as well as the design that's been presented at the meetings I attended will alleviate the traffic conditions which exist right now. I honestly think that the proposed project will make traffic better on 17 and 17A. I also think it's gonna benefit trees. I like walking near the woods. As a child I went to the Sterling Forest Gardens. For years as I've driven over the roads, I've seen those airfields which never became anything other than just one box of land and the buildings which used to be part of the gardens deteriorate. I've seen that infrastructure, I realize the horrific impact of just the paved fields deteriorating and I honestly think that restoring the infrastructure, restoring the gardens that's part of the Sterling Forest Project, building that resort on property which is not virgin forest but property that was developed fifty years ago is going to improve that area. And I think the commitment that they've expressed of thirty million dollars to preserve the parks, specifically Sterling and Harriman, giving to spend that money on fighting invasive species of animals, invasive species of plants, restoring walking paths is gonna bring greater access to those box to people and will benefit people such as myself who like trees. And finally I've studied the project. I've gone to their briefings and I believe that the use of recycled water will preserve the aquifer and preserve the other watershed. So thank you for hearing my humble comments and again as a local homeowner, a commuter on the affected roads, and someone who enjoys walking in the woods, I wholeheartedly support the Sterling Forest Projects. Thank you for your attention.

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Kevin Law: Thanks John. Lee can you do anything about the cracking in the mic or get the facility folks here to maybe get us a new mic or something? It's just, are you guys hearing all the cracking as well? Yeah. While we're doing that Gil Piaquadio is next. And I ask the folks in the back if they can take your sidebar conversations out in the hall please so the folks can be heard. Thank you. Gil.

Gil Piaquadio: I am Gil Piquadio, acting supervisor of the Town of Newburgh and I wanna thank you and the casino board for allowing me to speak here today. I am here to speak on behalf of the Hudson Valley Casino which has the full support of my town board. If you remember the town partnered with the City of Newburgh, financially partnered to share a host fate. I think that what one unique ones who have done that. But there are four school districts in the Town of Newburgh. The location of the Hudson Valley Casino is within the Newburgh central school district which serves three quarters of the town, the entire City of Newburgh, and most of the town of New Windsor. The Newburgh central school district is dire need of financial assistance. The Hudson Valley Casino by separate agreement has agreed to help financially the other three school districts in the Town of Newburgh. They being Marlboro, Valley Central, and Wallkill. Hudson Valley has signed a labor agreement with the local union of labor. That's important to me because when you employ people locally they intend to spend money in the local economy. Hudson Valley Casino has partnered with many local businesses including the arts and entertainment and actually have agreements with the Mid-Hudson Circuit Center, the Paramount Theater, Sugarloaf Performing Arts Center just off Broadway, and Shadowland Theater. And again thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Now we go back to the list of the people who signed up this morning. Ira Conklin.

Ira Conklin: Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to speak here today. My name is Ira Conklin. Been born and raised in Newburgh, New York and I'm here to speak on behalf of the of Greenetrack, for Greenetrack at Stewart Airport. I lived, born on Ridgeview Drive about a mile away to the east of Stewart Airport. I currently reside in Jackson Avenue which is about a mile and a half to the south of the airport. The airport, since the early seventies, under eminent domain was taken to the property was taken out of the Town of New Windsor tax base and we've been waiting for this airport, the county, all the leaders have been saying that the airport is the economic engine for our Orange County. And we're finally now able to see the possibility and this is the site for this casino is the best place is at Stewart Airport. We've got the water. We've got the sewer. We've got a fifty five million dollar road built directly into it. It would be, it's finally could happen for Orange County that we could get this casino there and about the opportunity to meet Mr. Winn who at Greenetrack. He's got the track record took in his county rate out of sixty seven counties in Alabama there were sixty seven, I'm sorry there were sixty six out of sixty seven counties in Alabama as far as the poverty level. And they're now around number thirty. They have a proven record of giving back to the community and giving back to their employees. Various scholarships and taking their normal working class folks and giving the opportunity to, to make a good decent living. And I think that they got a track record. They've done it before. They took a school district out of receivership and I think they are the best for

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Orange County and it's my opinion that two casinos could, one in Sullivan County and one in Orange County, could work. The casino in eastern, I'll call it eastern and northern Orange County, you'd have to drive twenty minutes past Route 17 to get up there and I don't think that would affect anything up in Sullivan County. And again we have the SEQRA process has been completed at Stewart Airport for two and a half million square feet. The three hundred and fifty thousand at the Greenetrack Casino would add to this as less than half of what the environmental impact was designed for original. And again we've got the sewer, we've got the water, we have the demolition permits in hand and we're pretty much ready to go. Thank you very much.

Kevin Law: Thank you Ira. Dale Matola.

Jerry Matola: Good afternoon members of the board. First of all my name is Jerry Matola.

Kevin Law: Oh.

Jerry Matola: My wife who signed up before I did had to go to work.

Kevin Law: Ok. Thanks Jerry.

Jerry Matola: Being a small business owner, you know how it is.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

Jerry Matola: First of all I would like to say also I'm a graduate of Ithaca College Ithaca, New York. And if you guys need directions on how to get there fast or good places to eat I'll gladly supply that information.

(Members of the Gaming Commission Board): (all laughing)

Kevin Law: How long should it take for us to get from here to there?

Jerry Matola: If you fly, not long.

(Members of the Gaming Commission Board): (all laughing)

Jerry Matola: If you drive, give it a good three hours.

Kevin Law: Alright thank you.

Jerry Matola: Ok. First of all I would like to read what my wife has written and then go on from there if I may.

Kevin Law: Sure.

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Jerry Matola: My name is Dale Matola. I'm a resident of Tuxedo and the current secretary informer person of the Tuxedo Chamber of Commerce. I'm here to represent the sixty businesses that are not members of the chamber. Tuxedo is persevered, perceived as a wealthy community not in need of the infusion of dollars in the local community that the proposed resort casino and being proposed by Genting America would provide. In fact if one room moves from Tuxedo Park the remainder of the Town of Tuxedo's very similar economically to the remainder of Orange County, broke. The population of Tuxedo has remained static for over the past five decades. A total population at between thirty five hundred and four thousand over the past ten to fifteen years. We have lost major companies that at once had a presence in Tuxedo and provided tax base. Just to name a few: International Paper, Warem Engineering, Union Carbide, Reco Chemical, Sycom, International Nickel, and IBM to a lot extent, and soon to be Sterling Forest Corporation or Sterling Forest LLC. We also have the employees of these large businesses frequently local leaders and services during the work week. We have also lost rivaling businesses because that attracted customers from outside the local community. Both during the work week and on weekends Tuxedo Inn, Red Apple Rest, and Sterling Forest who obviously have all been shuttered and if you looked at the Red Apple Rest now, which used to be one of the gateways to Sullivan County, it is condemned. The loss of the above causes the local business community struggle to survive but many businesses are not sustainable with only a small population base to support them. Also during the same period, a large tract of land that was once privately owned and slated for residential development became part of the State Park system. So now visitors to Tuxedo come for recreational purposes. To visit the state park, to Tuxedo ridge ski area, and the Renaissance Fair. All are in seasonal nature with short seasons so do little to support the local businesses. The Tuxedo Chamber of Commerce pulled its members regarding the proposal to build a resort in the town to include a casino an all-purpose casino, that is, it will have Sterling Forest Gardens revamp the Sterling Forest Tuxedo ridge ski center and have many different shuttles to many different places. It will provide a much needed tax base replacing what we no longer have. It will provide employment which we will not only provide jobs to Tuxedo residents but will draw from the surrounding communities. All these employees will be potential customers of the businesses in Tuxedo. It would also attract visitors who will not just be one day visitors, those staying at the hotel and would also enjoy the recreational shopping attractions not only found in Tuxedo but the rest of Orange County. The Tuxedo Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the Sterling Forest Resort Casino. Now some of my own comments. I recently came back from a cruise ship, the Rhapsody of the Seas. Much to my distain, there was some issue brought up about water. Ok. The same process that is used on a cruise ship, Genting's America will put in a casino and that means the water will be three times cleaner than what goes into the Ramapo now. I had the opportunity because I met with the captain and the staff engineer to actually go see the actual process and I could bore you with the details.

Kevin Law: No you can't because you actually don't have any time left.

Jerry Matola: I have thirty six seconds.

Kevin Law: Ok.

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Jerry Matola: Now concerning New York State Thruway Exit 15B. Concerning what you've heard earlier today, which may have been miss-stated, Genting has made it clear that they can and will develop Exit 15B off the thruway. According to the 1985 legislation, the state of New York that first authorized the exit to be built, the road that Genting would like to connect to Route 106 must be kept available for the development of the interchange. Giving that the Orange County recreation recently gave this road to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission and county executive, which I just checked out has already asked for the road back. It appears that this political move is not to be political at all.

Kevin Law: Alright.

Jerry Matola: And all of summit pones you like you think it is. Additionally I've looked at the land surveys of the...

Kevin Law: Jerry...

Jerry Matola: area that clear show the...

Paul Francis: Excuse me sir.

Kevin Law: Time's up.

Jerry Matola: Twenty three. Oh. Good bye.

Bill Thompson: Goodbye.

Jerry Matola: Thank you for your time.

Kevin Law: Thank you and thank your wife. What happened there? This was over a minute ago. Don't do that. Good. That's what the problem was.

Bill Thompson: Yep.

Kevin Law: They started later than I did. Ok next. Coleen Pierce. Start this at the same time?

Coleen Pierce: Good afternoon. My name is Coleen Pierce. And first I want to thank you all for taking on this difficult task of who to grant the license to. I wouldn't want to be in your shoes.

Kevin Law: Thank you Coleen.

Coleen Pierce: I own a deli in Highland Mills, New York. I speak as a business owner and a resident. I am ecstatic that Caesars chose my town for Caesars New York. I feel Caesars is the best. The most experienced with a proven track record. They have the knowhow to survive in the

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rough economy we are in. Even if we get competition from New Jersey and the Meadowlands, they would know how to handle it. The location is perfect. It's near all highways and the train. It's just near enough to New York City to allow city people to visit the casino. To allow casino people to go to the city if they want something different. But we're far enough away to allow us to have a nice country setting, which is what they're looking for. Caesars already has a huge customer following and they will also add the draw of Woodbury Commons which is over thirteen million people a year and they're expanding. There's gonna be many more people. Caesars has pledged to alleviate our area traffic problems. Which has been put on hold forever in New York State. While other applicants are making blind promises, Caesars is already fulfilling theirs. They're shopping local. I've seen it. They vowed to be a good neighbor. They've had vendor forms. A lot of people have signed up and made agreements with them. They've had employment forms and a veteran's form. A couple of nights ago they had something on the traffic situation also with engineers there to answer questions. They have a proven track record of doing these things in recent years. We don't wanna just pick anyone, we wanna pick the best to generate the most revenue for New York State and create permanent jobs. You could build the best casino in the whole wide world. If it's in the wrong spot and hard to get to, they won't come. It's not the field of dreams. Caesars is my choice and it's the only logical choice and I trust it will be yours too. Thank you very much.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Next is Gerard Osser.

Gerald Osser: Why thank you. The name is Gerald.

Kevin Law: Gerald, I'm sorry.

Gerald Osser: But you pronounced the last right, name right. Osser, like I need to talk to you. But I'll give a big quick of myself. I'm a past Orange County Commander of the American Legion. I'm on a veteran's advisory board for the Orange County executive Steve Newhouse. I'm a member of the Orange County Coalition and I'm a present commander of Mullikan Eaton Post 1573 in Harriman, New York. Now the reason I'm bringing this up is because I'm gonna talk to you about veteran's issues. What's tough on those who leave the military isn't what was remembering what was bad; it's remembering what was good. When men, men, men and women join the service, they expect to face many challenges and hardships as individuals. Whether that man getting yelled at, shot at, or made to jump out of airplanes. What they didn't yet quite understand was how much they would put aside their own individual concerns and focus on their fellow service members or how much they'd do the same for them. The truth is that they have never been in such a supportive social environment in their lives. Now that might sound odd to people who never been in the military. Getting chewed out for not having your shoes signed seems hardly supportive to most people. But that's just one part of the military experience. In the service it matters if someone else whether it fits, your boots fit properly. It matters to someone else whether you been to the dentist recently. And it matters to somebody else if you're at the right place at the right time. To be sure of all this attention paid to their performance was in the interest of team performance, but it also meant someone was always there for them. And now, when I exit the service, there's no more intrusive supply surprise health and welfare inspections.

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There's no more grueling runs or setting your speed to the slowest member of your group. No more morning formations. No more of the countless bureaucracy irritations of military life. Actually many of them, the cohesive structure that existed to take care of them, is gone. A strong sense of social security and friends from your readymade peer groups who are just as invested in your success as they are in theirs, is gone. Now when veterans leave the military service, many of them are leaving the most cohesive and helpful social network they have ever experienced. And it hurts. Most recent, veterans aren't suffering because they remember what was bad; they're suffering because they miss what was good. Simply put, they feel isolated and adrift. These veterans need three critical things: a new mission, a new purpose, and a strong supportive social network in which people were invested in one another's wellbeing and success; and that will get many of these veterans back on their feet. Those who have served in the military are resilient and capable leaders. But I just wanted to express one thing here. Veterans aren't looking for a hand out and certainly don't want to be pitied. The civilian life couldn't offer veterans more than the virtues of military life: accountability, cohesion, and a sense of purpose are supposed to hear less about the problems veterans face and more about their achievements and harnessing such energy, discipline, and public spirit. All of most veterans need is a new mission, a new purpose, and a supportive community of peers. Now in my opinion, I know I'm running a little out of time but this is very very important. In my opinion Caesars New York has showed that they do help veterans. Caesars has committed to hiring veterans since 2013. When they started enlisting heroes, now which enlisting heroes which is Caesars corporate wide veterans hiring initiative, which was launched to assist in the national charge of employment and to employ military veterans and aid with their transition into the civilian workforce and enter their community. Now since launching Enlisted Heroes in 2013, Caesars has hired over nine hundred veterans. Not including the thousands of veterans that already work for Caesars. As part of the initiative Caesars offers discounts for veterans. Military job fairs, network mixers to tour facilities and meet Caesars representatives. I'm almost finished. Caesars has partnered with many military bases to assist in the transition plans for those leaving the military and with veterans placement organizations including our heroes to partment veteran services and a number of veterans organizations. Caesars just recently hosted a veteran's forum in the town of Woodbury with local officials and local veteran's organizations leaders to discuss ways to maximize veterans hiring and develop a job readiness program for the local veterans and families

Bill Thompson: That's.

Gerald Osser: Caesars of New York aims to maximize veterans hiring at its proposed casino resort project by working closely with leading veterans services organizations and offering military job fairs...

Dennis Glazer: Sir.

Gerald Osser: in Woodbury, Newburgh, Middletown...

Dennis Glazer: We're gonna have to ask you to end right there.

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Gerald Osser: Ok thank you.

Dennis Glazer: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you Gerald.

Gerald Osser: My support.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

Paul Francis: We're gonna ask and just remind everybody, we'd like to stay with five minutes, the time that people take and run over is time that's being taken from others because it's gonna end this evening at eight o'clock. So please everybody be respectful of each other. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Charlie Paculer. Or Pecular?

Charlie Paculer: Good afternoon I'm Charlie Paculer. I'd like to know how many veterans are in the audience, please raise your hand? Thank you. I noticed we have an American flag missing so I don't know who I'm going to say, but there is an American flag that should be up at the podium and behalf. I'm here today in behalf of Caesars. They promise to fix Intersection 131 on 17 also known as future 86. Which no one is talking about. We're talking about everything else. We're talking about all the other counties but what about the traffic going through Harriman on a busy weekend? On a busy weekend you can stay there for a half hour painting your toes unless you have E-ZPass. The veterans, Caesars promised to give us priority hiring whether you're in a wheelchair, walker, or standing up. Which is great. That's, women veterans as well as men. You can't beat the things that they're telling us and they're going to do it. They're not promising millions and millions of dollars to schools, to anything. What they are doing is promising us jobs and we need jobs. I'm well past seventy and some. The question is, I am looking for a job. Who's gonna hire me? Ok, think what I'm saying to you. Everyone hopes to reach my age. I spent six months in a Navy hospital. Has no bearing on today but Caesars wants to hire you if they get their ok. So in behalf of Caesars, think of what they're offering. Sewer water is already in place. You can walk from the Harriman Train Station into a casino which is very very important. You can go ahead and take a Short Line Bus. You got Stewart Airport; yes we're looking at international travelers. Today we are not a fixed country. We go all over the world, all over the world investing our country as well as we invest in theirs. This is where the money is. This is where the money goes. My children cannot stay in the town or village of Harriman shall we say no jobs. They're in the fifties now, no jobs. Where are they gonna go to work? Where are they gonna get a job? I'm hoping Caesars lands an opportunity to go ahead and service the community as well veterans. They're gonna service the libraries. All these volunteer organizations. Police, fire, ambulance, rotary, lions you name it, masons and god knows who else. But they're for us and they're there for the community. I wanna thank this opportunity for your service.

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Kevin Law: And thank you. Thank you for your service. Gary O'Donnell. Is Gary here? We're gonna go back to the reserve list. Jeffrey Caplin. Mayor of the Village of Ellenville.

Jeffrey Caplin: Good afternoon and I want to thank you for your patience in listening to all of our speakers today. I wanna speak to you about the one topic in particular that I feel confident to speak about and that is the Ellenville area. My great grandfather moved to that area with my grandfather in 1900. My father was born over storefront in downtown Ellenville in the 1920s. I was born in the Ellenville Hospital. I have served as a village justice in Ellenville and I am now thirteen years the mayor. There are some people that would like me to tell you how depressing life is in Ellenville and that's why we should have the casino there. In fact they couldn't be further from the truth. I love living in Ellenville. It's a great place to live. Geographically we're in a great location. We have a very low crime rate. We have great systems for water and sewer. Our people are great. We have a live theater. We have a hospital that can service whoever comes through the door. All in all it's a great place to live. The problem with Ellenville is not what it is today. The problem is the future. Ellenville is dying. There's no really other way to say it. I live in a neighborhood in which as I was my kids were growing up there were twenty kids. There are now three kids in that neighborhood. On my street there are nine houses. All were full of people living there and residing in Ellenville. Today two of them are in bankruptcy, foreclosure rather. One of them is vacant. Another one of the houses someone picked up cheap in the Bronx and comes a couple times a year. Another house someone just sold and moved to Newport. S of the nine houses there are only five that have owner occupied, the others are vacant. Our Shadowland Theater is run by a board of directors that have been there twenty to thirty years and my concern is that when they leave there will be no one replacing them. Hospital board, an older board. Again gonna be difficult to replace these people. The Ellenville School, which is a beautiful school, relatively new last fifteen years we've built that school. The board of education are all older people. There was a time when it used to be the parents of children and now it's basically people that have sat on that board for twenty years. We need jobs in the Ellenville area to bring back people. I said earlier there were twenty kids that grew up in the area. None of those twenty kids came back to Ellenville after they left. And that's really the problem. Just like I have five generations of people in Ellenville. That's where the heart and soul of Ellenville came from. Generations of family that came back. Our kids have no way to come back because there's no jobs. There's no way to make a living there. And so while we have this great community, the community is dying. We need jobs. We had an industrial source in Ellenville of two or three factories. All of them are homespun people who made it in the Ellenville area. The Resnick family built Channel Master. Schrade Knife, both of them are out business now. We have an empty factory. No one's running to come to Ellenville for industrial purposes. Our resort business, bungalow counties, and hotels was thriving. We're down to one hotel in the area and that is also quite frankly on life support. So what you could do by giving the Nevele a permit is to save a community. I don't think there's anyone else on the list that can say that. You know we're not the county seat like Monticello is. The other applicants, you've heard compelling stories but I believe all of them will brush off their pants and move onto the next project. There is no next project in Ellenville. This is the one chance we have of a revival of an area that I assure you is worth reviving. And the one thing that's good about this as I mentioned all the positive things about Ellenville and the reason why I'm there and would never leave, is that it would be a

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great fit to come in. You don't have to worry about crime issues. We have a great police force and there aren't crime issues in the Ellenville area. We have a great school. We have housing available. We have a workforce available. This would be an ideal place to revive our community. So I ask you on behalf of our community to give Ellenville a chance to survive. It's in your hands to do that. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you sir. Kevin Sweeney. Who are these kids?

(Kids talking loud in the background)

Kevin Law: Kevin.

Kevin Sweeney: Good afternoon. I'm Kevin Sweeney. I'm a small business owner in the Village of Greenwood Lake and I'm also the president of the Greenwood Lake Chamber of Commerce. Greenwood Lake is a small village in the middle of a great metropolitan area with mostly mom and pop businesses. A large percentage of our business is tourism which of course is seasonal. Just like a lot of places it's tough. Orange County has almost eleven thousand unemployed workers and a median income of thirty thousand three hundred seventy nine dollars. A large number of our residents must commute two hours to earn a decent wage. Our children have to move away. We need good jobs. Sterling Forest Resort will employ four thousand people with a starting salary of fifty five thousand dollars. That's twenty four thousand dollars above the median income. The local businesses will of course benefit from these jobs because people will have more money to spend. But businesses will benefit more directly. Sterling Forest Resort has already formed partnerships with local businesses and has committed to purchase goods and services locally when possible. In addition, they will allow businesses to accept their loyalty points. When we first became aware of this proposal, we the chamber, most were opposed to it, including myself. We didn't want anybody coming in and messing up what we have. We have a great community. Beautiful mountains, forests, streams, and lakes and we're rightfully proud and protective of them. Our board of directors spent a great deal of time researching Genting, the proposal, and the location. We like what we saw, except for the location. Genting as a company has the resources and experience to do it correctly. The proposal speaks for itself. The location: a paved parking lot would be an improvement of what's there now. The area they want to build their hotel on is a mess of broken pavement, derelict buildings, litter, and a rusting satellite dish. This project will vastly improve the location and enhance and help protect the surrounding environment. Keeping it beautiful for years to come. Over the last few years we have seen our state parks close to the public because the state did not have the funds to keep them open. The payments from Genting to the parks will help ensure that this doesn't happen again. Another issues we of the chamber were concerned about was Sullivan County. Should be this sited to help the unemployed in Sullivan County. What I learned is that unemployment rate in Sullivan is higher than Orange. Six point six as opposed to six point three. But there are five times as many unemployed in Orange County as there are in Sullivan. In fact: if they hired every unemployed worker in Sullivan County to work at this resort, they would still have almost two thousand jobs open. Sullivan has twenty two hundred and seventy two unemployed compared to the eleven thousand in Orange. Eight hundred twenty seven of them right in our town. In addition, Sterling

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Forest Resort has said that they will reach out to those in Sullivan to work at their resort. The vast majority of people in Greenwood Lake want this project to go forward. We want the growth, we need the jobs. That's why the Greenwood Lake Chamber Board has voted unanimously to support the Sterling Forest Resort and to urge the board to site the project in Tuxedo. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Next. You calling him?

(Dial-tone over intercom)

Kevin Law: We're trying to reconnect our other board member. Stu?

(Unknown person who works with the commission): I hear somebody there.

Kevin Law: Yep. Stu you there? Stu are you there?

Stewart Benowitz: Hello?

Kevin Law: Yes. While we're doing this, Grace Lee you're on deck. You can come up to the podium.

Bill Thompson: Grace Lee.

Kevin Law: Grace Lee?

(Members of the audience): She's coming.

(Dial-tone over the intercom again)

Paul Francis: It's like an echo in the room.

Kevin Law: Grace Lee.

Paul Francis: Someone's there. (Referring to the phone)

(Unknown person who works with the commission): He should be connected.

Kevin Law: Alright.

Bill Thompson: Here she comes. Kevin.

(Unknown person who works with the commission): Why is this open? We should check it.

Kevin Law: Don't worry about it. Grace.

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Grace Lee: Good afternoon.

Dennis Glazor: Good afternoon.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

Grace Lee: I'm Grace Lee. The executive director of National Park Trust, a 501(C)(3) not for profit based in Washington, DC. The trust's mission is to preserve parks today and create park stewards for tomorrow. I'm very pleased to be here today to speak about our work with Caesars Entertainment and the Caesars Foundation, our multi-year partner and one of our key sponsors for our national youth programs. Our partnership with Caesars has directly benefited thousands of young students in communities where they are located. Focusing on schools where the majority of the children qualify for for-free or reduced price lunch. Now a little background about the National Park Trust and before I elaborate on Caesars impact in local communities through our local partnership. Since 1983 the trust has completed more than a hundred park preservation projects. Working with federal, state, and local agencies in thirty three states. So however, in recent years we've been very very concerned about the alarming disconnect between our youth and our nations parks and the environment. So to ensure the protection and preservation of these treasured landscapes and natural resources, we have worked closely with the Caesars Foundation to expand our mission by creating two national youth education initiatives. The overarching goal of our youth programs is to cultivate environmental stewards now and for future generations. Caesars has played a key role in the development and expansion of both our buddy Bison Environmental Education Program and our national grassroots movement: Kids to Parks Day. Kids to Parks Day is celebrated annually every May. Now incidentally, Buddy Bison is our loveable woolly pint-sized mascot. Our Buddy Bison environmental education program was first piloted in 2009 in Washington, DC and just a handful of schools. And the goal of this program is to connect kids with their local parks and their public lands. Now we know that in order to save it, they need to see it. And parks are wonderful outdoor classrooms and laboratories where students can learn about environmental stewardship, science, technology, engineering, and math also known as stem, and health and wellness through outdoor recreation. In 2010 the second year of our Buddy Bison program we approached Caesars seeking a corporate partner to fulfill our vision of expanding this program nationally. We discovered that our vision and their environmental stewardship pillar within their code of commitment were perfectly aligned. Through a leadership grant from their foundation we worked with employee volunteers to roll out our school program in many key markets including Las Vegas, Atlantic City, and New Orleans. Interestingly enough, since then many other corporations have embraced the school model and as a result thanks to Caesars's forward thinking: the Buddy Bison program has been used in more than fifty schools and seventeen states in just six years. Impacting preschool through middle school students. And a year later the trust kicked off our national grassroots program Kids to Parks Day. This time, our vision was to build on the reach of our Buddy Bison school program to engage hundreds of thousands of kids, teachers and caregivers in all fifty states and Washington, DC. In just four years, the program has grown to nearly four hundred and fifty thousand participants who discover their local parks and public lands and learn about opportunities for environmental stewardship and outdoor recreation. Kids to Parks Day is

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officially in support of the First Ladies Initiative. And once again Caesars was our first lead corporate partner. Providing early support to benefit families and kids in their communities. Over a two year period, nearly all of the Caesars properties hosted community events. Many of them focused on environmental stewardship and public lands service projects. This year we are further enhancing our partnership to pilot the first Buddy Bison carbon reduction contest to teach local elementary school children in five Caesar's markets about climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, their carbon footprint, and how they can reduce their carbon consumption. Five schools in these markets are teaming up with their respected code green volunteers to participate in a series of ten action items. So not only are the Caesars employees invested in sustainable practices at their workplace to conserve energy and water, they also will be mentoring local school children to do the same. Using the Bison Carbon Report Card: students will be able to track how they as individuals, a classroom, a grade, and even a school can change their habits to...

Kevin Law: Your time's up.

Grace Lee: to reduce their carbon footprint.

Kevin Law: Thank you very much.

Grace Lee: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Steven Brescia. Is Steven Brescia here?

Steven Brescia: I am Steve Brescia, chairman of the Orange County Legislature and Mayor of the Village of Montgomery. First off I'm gonna speak as chairman for one minute to tell you that unequivocally the Orange County Legislature endorses a casino, if not two in the County of Orange. We voted on May 1<sup>st</sup>, twenty to one to endorse a casino in Orange County. The one legislator who voted against is against gaming for moral purposes. But otherwise he would have been there. And we started out like the tortoise in the race with the rabbit and Orange County is finishing up strong. We certainly want one casino in Orange County. Many legislators including myself and many residents would like to see one in Sullivan County as well. And I might get yelled at for saying that but you know, we want to be good neighbors. Sullivan's been in the fight a lot longer than we have but we have a lot to offer in Orange County. You've heard some of the statistics from around the county with unemployment and other issues with businesses in the Village of Montgomery I know we've had three or four businesses close recently. A bank in the Village of Maybrook as well is leaving. So we have our issues here but you are gonna site one in Sullivan County I encourage you to site one in the eastern end of the county in Orange. You know Dinner G just went out recently was crippling to Marlboro School District in Ulster County. The Town of Newburgh as well. And we do have a lot of unemployment in Orange County as you've heard or Jervis, Middletown, and Newburgh as well as the nineteen villages and twenty towns. So the other counties aren't alone in that category. I am here to endorse Resorts World Montgomery. The best site as far as traffic goes is in the Town of Montgomery and the Town of New Windsor. The Greenetrack site and the Resort World in the Town of

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Montgomery. 747 can handle three thousand cards an hour. You don't need to do the road improvements like you will in other districts. But let me hit on the Montgomery site for one minute. There's zero percent opposition in the Town of Montgomery and we have a unique situation. The three villages of Maybrook, Walden, and Montgomery endorse this site as well as the Town of Montgomery. I don't think you have that in any other sites. Genting is offering living wages. The highest average salary is sixty thousand. This is besides Tuxedo, I'm sure Tuxedo they're offering as much if not more. Five minutes from the City of Newburgh and we know the situation in the City of Newburgh, that they need jobs workforce but there's a lot of other areas around. We have other areas that we can draw from as well which I don't think you'll have the competition from Manhattan. Which you're gonna have seven years hence. Or in northern New Jersey which that comes with gaming down there. We can draw from Dutchess, Putnam, Green, Columbia, Western Connecticut, and Orange County of course. Genting has the best track record in New York. We've seen that at Aqueduct Raceway. They built that facility in twelve months when it was said that they couldn't do it in sixteen months. They're gonna utilize all the wetlands at the site. Three hundred seventy four acres I believe it is, three seventy three. And they're gonna expand on that and they're gonna utilize wetlands into their theme. You know possibly they could have a water park down the road which will, you know, compliment the gaming and it's gonna be a destination facility. And I just think it's gonna be a homerun for the county of Orange and definitely the town and the three villages in the Town of Montgomery. I think I hit just about everything. I'm probably ahead of my time.

Kevin Law: That's fine.

Steven Brescia: That's fine. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Good job and thank you very much. Thank you Steve. Back to the list of people who signed up today. Reverend William Mizell.

William Mizell: Good afternoon gentleman who are sitting on this board and to all of you who are gathered here. It is a privilege and I'm grateful for the opportunity to speak to you. I am a reverend and I guess that many of you are asking yourselves, why would a clergy man be at a hearing advocating gambling? That's a good question.

Bill Thompson: Reverend, why are you at a hearing advocating gambling?

William Mizell: I'm glad you asked.

Kevin Law: That's a good question.

William Mizell: The reason that I'm here representing not only my pastor, the Reverend Dr. W. Franklin Richardson and the congregation of Grace Baptist Church in Mount Vernon, New York. I also serve as chair of the Social Justice Committee for the United Black Clergy of Westchester. And for us down state we see and we understand what's going but this is not an issue about gambling as much as for us, it's an issue of social justice. Maybe this isn't the forum for it but I

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have to speak what's in my heart and my observations of New York State and the country. The UBC matter of fact, United Black Clergy, it got its origin over forty years ago. There was a black man in Mount Vernon who had applied for a liquor license and the state had refused him and so the organization began because we were advocating for his right to run a business. And as a result of that for the last forty years United Black Clergy has been instrumental in advocating for social justices for minorities in our communities. There's no doubt that, and you've heard from all the other speakers that communities across New York State are struggling. But especially in communities of color we find struggling communities. In our community we have a need for social, economic, and political empowerment. Everybody's talking about jobs and what these casinos will bring to the different communities. But in our communities we need more than just the promise of a job. We need a responsible business persons who care about the community and have a track record of rebuilding communities. And it's for that reason that I stand today representing the four thousand members of Grace Baptist Church and the two hundred member congregations that belong to the United Black Clergy of Westchester in support of the Grand Hudson Casino and Resort. Grand Hudson, really I mean they're committed to and they've already committed themselves and folks are already going down to visit their site in Alabama and it's got great reviews from that community about their participation and social consciences and what they've done to rebuild that community. But they promise us not only good paying jobs, thousands of good paying jobs, they also offer us training and benefits. And the reality is once you do your research you realize that they, what they're promising is unrivaled at what they produce is unrivaled by any of the other competitors in this bidding process. That our bidding for the Hudson Valley and Catskill region. There's two reasons that we support it. Number one is a business reason for the church. We, our ad ministries and our charitable resources are a function of people being employed. Chronic employment decreases our resources and does not enable us to provide services to the people in our community. Secondly it also reduces the income to chronic and unemployment, reduces income to the state in which they won't be able to provide safety net social service programs for the needy in our community. Unemployment is really more than just the economic issue. It strikes at the heart and soul of our families and it weakens our communities. Real prosperity in New York State, it comes from the ground up. If had through jobs that provide stability for communities. Luther Winn and Greenetrack, they have a track record of providing scholarships for young folks. They're committed to creating jobs and training the youth and for old folks. They're very much involved in transportation systems in Alabama. So we are very proud of the fact that we have an African American man bidding in this process. There is a matter of fact he's the only African American man in America that owns a casino. The only one. So I mean and what I appreciate about Luther Winn and Greenetrack is they understand that good paying jobs build strong communities but it also builds a stronger state. And I'll leave you with this because this is a moral question. We're really here today to help Governor Cuomo fulfill his quota and his commitment as he says to providing twenty five percent of state contracts to minority vendors. Well he has an opportunity in Luther Winn and Greenetrack. Not to provide lip service to that but we have a qualified minority business enterprise who is bidding on this. Now if he wants to do right morally, we must consider the social, economic, and political applications of your decisions and making this and allocating the rights of someone to operate a new casino in New York State.

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Kevin Law: Alright.

William Mizell: I submit to you today that out of all your choices, and again you got choices. But we have a businessman with a track record. We have a businessman who meets the criteria of fulfilling the, of closing the disparity of wealth in this here state. And again to govern an opportunity to do what he said he would do in terms of making us a part of the social fabric of this state. I thank you for your time. God bless.

Kevin Law: Thank you reverend. Matt Veronesi.

Matt Veronesi: Thank you for giving me the chance to speak. My name is Matt Veronesi. I'm the director of Parks and Recreation for the Town of New Windsor. First off I wanted to say with my orange shirt you will notice I am supporting, I look like the great pumpkin from Charlie Brown in it, but I am supporting the Grand Hudson Resort and Casino in New Windsor. There will be a lot smarter people than me coming up to say why we have the best sites so I'll leave that up to them. But I do know recreation and I do know the impact that recreation has on the community and I will tell you that we have something that none of these other projects have and that is Mr. Winn and the casino that will be building us a twelve to fifteen million dollar sports complex as part this casino deal. Now that alone will add a whole other aspect that none of these other casinos will bring. That will bring additional revenue to hotels, restaurants, gas stations, grocery stores because this facility yes will help me with recreation in New Windsor but it will bring functions and events from people all over the Tri-State area and beyond. I mean right now in New Windsor I run baseball and softball tournaments on weekends and really it's just the local states around New York and we bring in additionally, again smarter people than me figured out this, an additional just our twenty baseball and softball tournaments which are small in scale compared to what would be at this new sports complex, bring in an additional one million dollars to the local revenue and the local businesses because of the small tournaments that we have. Now this sports center happens, if the casino in New Windsor happens, this sports complex comes in to the area this is gonna be multiplied by many millions of dollars each year that it would, none of these other projects are bringing that to the table. You're talking about added jobs as well. You're talking about added tax revenue as well because all of these things, all of this money being spent at the businesses, there's tax dollars there. As far as I know none of the other projects are bringing that to the table. So please support Town of New Windsor, the Grand Hudson Resort and Casino and I appreciate you guys taking the time to let me speak. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Frank Pirre or Frank Pierre. Coming? Frank? Frank?

Michael Biasotti: Good afternoon I'm taking Mr. Pierre's place. I'm Chief Biasotti, Michael Biasotti. The dentist earlier this morning didn't think I'd be able to speak but I'm here.

Kevin Law: You sound pretty good.

Michael Biasotti: I am doing well, thank you.

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Kevin Law: Ok.

Michael Biasotti: I'm here, again my name is Mike Biasotti. I'm a sixth generation resident of the Town of New Windsor. I am in my fortieth year of employment with the Town of New Windsor. I'm the past president of the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police and the current president of Orange County Police Chiefs Association. I'm here to specifically to speak about just one small positive with the Stewart Airport proposition. In 2005, we had no training facility in Orange County for law enforcement. No funding to make a facility. There was some controversy. We as the chiefs association got together and started a grass roots movement throughout the town, throughout the county to build a training facility for Orange County specifically because municipalities were spending a great deal of money to send police officers a great distance for the training required and just the overtime in gas back and forth, it didn't make sense. Through the Town of New Windsor we were able to get a building at Stewart Airport for a dollar a year donated. We then brought together grass roots movement throughout the community. We brought religious groups, the Bruderhof made furniture for the building, the Hasidic community donated electronics, the electricians, the carpenters, the laborers, the plumbers all came and donated their time. Lumber lards donated the materials and facilities. Through that we built a training facility out an old army barracks on Stewart Airport. We did well. We did very well because all of our people, all of our people are volunteers. Our trainers are volunteers. Our teachers are volunteers. So it saves most of the communities a great deal of money to send their people there. What has happened to us, because it saved some money, has grown it has grown and we're just about outgrown that facility. Actually we are too small for that facility for the number of officers that we need to train. In Orange County alone we are training upwards of between eight and nine hundred police officers. We've now found out that we've expanded since the exchange went in for 84 and the throughway. We now expanded that base of people that it's reasonable for them to come to our training facility because of the cost and because of the distance and how that change made 84 and the throughway the crossroads of the northeast just expanded by another half our at least travel time. So we bring officers as far as Soffit County all the way to Albany. We are greatly outgrowing it. As part of the proposition have to do with Stewart Airport that will provide funds to re-do the Army National Guard building which was, we received during the brack process and a large part of that building they're gonna renovate to become a training facility. We are no longer a training facility for Orange County, we're a training facility for the Hudson Valley. As I said we do officers from all over the place. We need to expand. It saves a ton of money for the municipalities and it's long overdue and the support from the community around has been terrific. So just one small positive of that whole process would be a state of the art training facility that will train our police officers from Albany to New York City. We pull New York City people in also. So I, we're very excited and with the hopes that that may go through and if it does go through what that will do for law enforcement training, not only for our area but for the state in whole. So thank you for your time and that's what our really looking forward to if that happens.

Kevin Law: Thanks. Thank you Mike. Jennifer Merchaison, or Merchison.

Jennifer Merchison: Good afternoon board members.

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Kevin Law: Hi Jenn.

Jennifer Merchison: And everyone in attendance. My name is Jennifer Merchison. I'm a twenty six year resident of the City of Newburgh. I'm a member of Newburgh United which is a grassroots organization aimed at improving and saving Newburgh youth. I'm here in support of Hudson Valley Resort and Casinos. The fact that ten million dollars in property tax, the entire ten million dollars will go entirely to the Newburgh and large city school district is the reason why I'm here to support them. Newburgh is an improvised community and that's putting it mildly. "Poverty," wrote Aristotle "is the parent of crime." There were sixteen homicides in the City of Newburgh in two and a half years. One of those years was 2008. One of those homicides was my own son James Andrew Merchison. His opportunity to benefit from this is over, but the opportunity for other youth is within arm's reach. One might say that merely increasing people's incomes may be a good idea. But it might not address the other issues that can be explained as just bad behavior. I don't agree. Every one job that is created by Hudson Valley Casinos is one life transformed in a city in desperate need of transformation. A lack of education perpetuates poverty. Breaking that cycle is key to the survival of our children in the City of Newburgh. Education plays a positive role in a realistic anti-poverty agenda. When you combine general education with training specific to the individual and local labor market, you thrive. Although education won't improve the quality or the quantity of jobs, it will improve the quality of the life for the worker. I believe that Hudson Valley Casinos is dedicated to improving and assisting us in saving the lives of our children. For at the end of the day I hope that you sincerely consider one of the casinos, hopefully if not two for Orange County. Our children are limited in options so far it's been either jail or the graveyard. So hopefully at the end of the day we can make this happen. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you Jennifer. Chester Johnson.

Chester Johnson: Good evening. Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you once again. I'm sitting here listening to things going about the City of Newburgh. I'm so thrilled to know that Labor Local Number 17 is gonna be partnering with Hudson Valley because I'm a sixty five year member of Local 17 and whenever we can do something for the community, it just makes my heart flutter. Now just...

Kevin Law: Hey Chester could you hold on one sec? Folks, could you please take the conversations outside so we could hear Chester and all your other neighbors please. Thank you.

Chester Johnson: I'm here representing Newburgh Chapter of the NAACP. And we are overwhelmed and we've been to the state president and whenever there's an opportunity for jobs, the NAACP is standing behind them. Now the Grand Hudson under the leadership of Luther Winn of Greenetrack, has laid out the plans to create thousands of good paying jobs. To train our residents. To provide the benefits and service that no other casino is talking about. And I can tell you folks in Newburgh I was here when the ferry was running. I was here before the Palisades Parkway. I was here before the New York State Thruway and I worked on all of them. And

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we, at that time Newburgh was called the all American city. We had jobs. We had coat factories, pocket book factories, everybody came to Newburgh buying homes. Everybody came to Newburgh looking for work and finding it. Then all of a sudden urban anew. Now people are losing their homes for lack of employment. So when the Hudson Valley comes in, we're gonna get, I just know we're gonna get a resurgence of people coming in buying homes putting Newburgh back on the map. We can only go down so low and I think we've touched bottom and we will bounce back and we are in grand support of the Hudson Valley Casino. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Dolores Marchand.

Paul Francis: We know. We know. We can see the t-shirt. It's the Grand Hudson, we can see the t-shirt.

Chester Johnson: Grand Hudson!

Paul Francis: We can read, ok?

Kevin Law: Dolores?

Dolores Marchand: Yes. Hello my name is Dolores Marchand and I'm a twenty three year resident of Tuxedo Park, New York who is vehemently opposed to Genting's proposed Sterling Forest Resort in Tuxedo. The amendment voted on in November of 2013 was to bring revenue and jobs to depressed areas of upstate New York. Specifically the Catskill region which is in desperate need of such jobs. Tuxedo, in the southern tip of Orange County, is in the Ramapo Region not the Catskills and strangely before this I have never heard it referred to as upstate. It seems that travesty to me to me to even consider Tuxedo as a site for a casino since we have only about two hundred people currently unemployed here and we also have a very high medium income. Tuxedo is not a depressed town in any way. There are approximately thirty six hundred residents in all of Tuxedo. The casino says that they will hire four thousand or so workers. Therefor they will be bussing in thousands of people every day to staff the casino. Effectively doubling our population with the workers alone. Add to that the six point five million visitors per year that the casino is projected to bring in. This makes no sense at all. The proposed location of a huge gaudy resort adjacent to a pristine state park saved at a cost of millions of dollars which is also a watershed region for millions of people is preposterous. The impact of the amount of traffic going to and from the casino, the waste water and runoff including chemicals used on the gardens will cause irrevocable harm to the sensitive region. Something that cannot be mitigated. The only main road going through Tuxedo and the neighboring Town of Sloatsburg in order to get anywhere going north or south is Route 17. This narrow road is already overcrowded and very dangerous since there is virtually no shoulder on either side and no median. In the twenty three years I have lived here I have witnessed many bad accidents, some fatal, on Route 17 and it is not uncommon for the road to be closed in either direction because of such accidents. Many school buses use this road daily year round and I have witnessed people disregarding the stop signs on busses many times. Now add intoxicated casino patrons to the scenario of a narrow treacherous road with no medians and school buses frequenting it. It is a recipe for disaster. No

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amount of money could bring back someone's lost child. And by the way, school buses go right by the proposed casino location too on Route 17A. Even if the proposed Exit 15B were allowed to be built on the throughway, traffic still comes locally through Tuxedo whenever there is a problem on the throughway. Which is already quite often and would happen more frequently with the increased usage of casino patrons. I must also mention that during heavy rains Route 17 is prone to flooding and closures in both directions. My family has been stranded at home more times than I care to remember because of this. Most times also without power as well since we are prone to frequent power outages too. Where would all the stranded casino patrons go? Surely the casino will not have rooms for all of them. Most of the actual residents of Tuxedo don't want a casino here. The letters, we were told, would be considered by our town board were over two to one against it. I know this for a fact since I read them all. Under the Freedom of Information law we were allowed to see them. In the last five months I have attended many meetings on this project and have listened to many people speak. In general the opponents were closer to four to one against the project. I am talking about actual residents here, not those cheerleaders hired by Genting to extol the virtues of the project. In fact it seemed that these hired guns knew about the project before we the residents did as they have been attending the meetings from day one trying to convince its residents of its merit. I don't think that people that live in Gocheans, Suffern, Greenwood Lake, and Norwick should be telling Tuxedo residents will be for our town especially when they have been paid or promised jobs to do so. Our town board voted in favor of the project with only one member dissenting despite the consensus of residents that we did not want it. I wonder why that happened. I thought town boards were supposed to represent their constituents not disregard their wishes. Last week the Palisades Interstate Park Commission voted to deny a land swap that would enable Genting to build Exit 15B on the New York State Throughway. They should be commended for this because they realize that the regions of Sterling Forest and Harriman State Park were meant to be preserved as places for all to enjoy and not to grate it and pollute it by casinos. They turned down Genting's millions and did the right thing. I hope that the New York Gaming Facility Location Board will reach to the same conclusion. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

Kevin Law: Thank you Dolores. Next up is Jeffrey Marchand.

Jeffrey Marchand: Good afternoon and thank you for hearing my comments. My name is Jeffrey Marchand and I am a long term resident of Tuxedo Park, New York which is located only a few short miles from the proposed mega development known as the Sterling Forest Resort Casino. The Genting Corporation has painted a rosy picture of their concept for the Sterling Forest Casino. On the other hand I see it as ill-conceived and totally inappropriate for this site and question why this is even being considered. Over a hundred million dollars in public and private funds were paid for this land to be preserved. I find it hard to reconcile that this development might be allowed knowing that it will bring an estimated seven million persons annually to the casino. With its intended pollution, crime, and social issues there is a serious conflict and a disconnect here that I find perplexing. The people of Genting, the town boards of Tuxedo, and the Village of Tuxedo Park have worked hard to promote the idea that many in the community support it. Nothing could be farther from the truth. After the Genting proposal was initially sprung upon the casino electorate, the town supervisor conducted an email survey with the

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results spoke the real truth. There were more than twice as many voters opposed than there were in favor. The following are points to ponder. Water: one of the most important points of contention. There will not be enough of it. Where will it come from? Genting says that they will, if necessary, truck it in. Which sounds like a desperate plan to me. Common sense tells you that if you don't have enough of this essential element to sustain your business model: find another location that does. Economic need: the town of Tuxedo has an aggregate annual household income and excess of over one hundred thousand dollars. Our unemployment rate ranges from average to below average. The casino should go to an area with a much higher need. Not an affluent area such as this. Sewer and waste water treatment: Genting promises that they will have the state of the art waste-water treatment facilities. Tell that to the people of the states of New York and New Jersey who so heavily depend on this water and have spent millions of dollars to preserve it. I wouldn't want to tell my kids to go to ski at Tuxedo Ridge when today's snow was yesterday's casino effluent. Labor: Genting says it will bus in workers from Newburgh, Port Jervis, and other municipalities. Hmm, why should we agree to a plan that will pollute our area even more and cause serious long-term wear and tear to our road infrastructure to subsidize Genting? Put the casino where the workers are and not vice-versa. Land: much has been said about the heavy prior use of the proposed casino property. The real truth is that the property was lightly used as a botanical garden. It certainly did not bring in several million visitors a year. Mitigations: Genting is promising all kinds of remediation for SEQRA. All of that must be taken with the utmost grain of salt because the environmental analysis is being done by known associates of Genting. I sincerely question the objectivity of this. Even with all that, how could they mitigate the pollution that this enormous project will bring and the permanent negative effects of the actual habitat. They cannot and they know it. Influence buying: Genting has spared no expense buying their way into Tuxedo politics. But it is using a form of legal blackmail to muzzle our elected officials to keep negative comments from surfacing. The residents of Tuxedo and the Village of Tuxedo Park are facing an unprecedented assault on our environment, our natural resources, and our property values. Which is very sobering for those of us who own property here. The Palisades Interstate Park Commission has a mandate to protect our parklands and they did so by their decision to deny the interchange lands to Genting. The host agreement of the Town of Tuxedo mandates that this project be abandoned in case the new interchange is not approved. I respectfully request that this proposal be denied due to this reason alone. There are many other reasons to deny it but this should technically end it. It might be difficult to pass on the check that Mr. Good so pointedly write out at the Albany meeting but is nonetheless the right thing to do. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Thank you. On that, we're taking a short break and on deck will be Marie Vegnaburn in a few minutes when we resume.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Ok so you must be Marie Vegnaburn?

Marie Vegnaburn: Yes I am thank you.

Kevin Law: Well thank you and you are on for your five minutes or less.

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Marie Vegnaburn: Thank you gentlemen.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

Marie Vegnaburn: Thank you very much for allowing to me to speak this afternoon. When I first heard about casinos in the, I'm an Orange County resident, when I first heard about the casinos I kind of just pushed it off out of my mind and didn't think about it until I started realize that there was gonna be a tremendous impact not only on my community but also on the communities within the whole region of Hudson Valley. When I thought about what a casino or the community impact could do and could bring to us, I thought now's the time for me to start doing my research and speaking up. I am the mother of two veterans. Young men who have served their country. I am sitting on a board of directors for a domestic violence organization and what I have found in my research is that there are, everybody's here and I appreciate all the good comments because there's a lot of good stuff that will come out of this for any community that is awarded the licensing. However what I found with Caesars is that they have a community foundation that bars none. They have actually stepped up their programs for veterans. Our returning men and women are finding themselves without jobs. They can't support their families and they need to be supported. They need to be helped. Our women, our families in domestic violence situations are looking at where can they go? And Caesars has a proven track record of bringing and supporting communities and supporting those efforts. So yes, I see the economic value for jobs in you know for the communities. I see that there are pros and cons to both sides of the story. I think that what we have to look at is what's going to bring the best to the region itself and not just one small community or one school district but the overall region. And I want to thank you for your time and I too am, you know I my other friend said I wouldn't wanna be in your shoes and I know you have a really tough job ahead of you. Thank you very much.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Kathy Patty or Pattie.

Kathy Patty: Patty.

Kevin Law: Hi Kathy.

Kathy Patty: Hey there. Ok.

Kevin Law: All set?

Kathy Patty: Good afternoon chairmen, Chairman Law, and members of the Gaming Facility Location Board. My name is Kathy Patty. I'm the president and CEO of the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce. I appreciate the opportunity to address you all today. As you've seen we have a combined Sullivan County economic development team and I just want to strike up that we are united with this combined message of the MO-Squared. I represent a membership of nearly six hundred Sullivan County businesses. It would give me great pleasure to stand here and tell you what a growing vibrant business community I represent but I cannot. What I can tell you is this; they are tired. Tired of promises. Tired of struggling. Tired of a stagnant business climate.

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Since the decline of our once great hotel industry we have lost business, we have lost jobs, and our children have left home seeking jobs elsewhere. We have the highest unemployment rate of any surrounding county at eight point seven percent and a low per capita income level of under twenty five thousand dollars a year. Our business community remains ever hopeful. Two weeks ago you heard both of our project submissions say that they understood the history and the background of Sullivan County. Both of our projects, Montreign and Mohegan Sun, understand our untouched potential. The two proposed destination resorts at the Concord site provide the catalyst, the economic stimulus for much needed jobs and business. The chamber, together with the Sullivan County Visitors Association and SUNY Sullivan, have applied for grants to bring nationally recognized and hospitality customer service training to Sullivan County. We've done that alone full well knowing that both projects have probably sought out those same trainings for themselves. We've met with the casino applicants in regards to the specialized training needed for restaurant and hotel management, dealer training, customer service, and casino management. So our educational industries are well aware of what we need to bring our workforce to speed for this. Gentlemen this is the shot in the arm we need in the Sullivan County Catskills. We've been at the table for fifty years. This is the fuel that will ignite the area and stimulate new growth and renewed spirit. Lastly, I have been a resident of Sullivan County for thirty one years. I have grown up here and raising my daughter there. It is my privilege to lead a group of businesses who all want to be a part of something historical to rebuild our region's economy. Please help us on the pace to recovery so that my daughter can have the endless opportunities that she deserves right here in New York State. Remember we are in need and the casino referendum and enabling the legislation is for us. We're ready now. We're the right choice. We're the only choice the real Sullivan County Catskills.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

Kathy Patty: And I do have two minutes left. So I should speak to you a little bit more but I appreciate that you've been sitting there all day so I'll leave.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Thank you Kathy and we will remember that.

Bill Thompson: It helps you make points ok.

Kevin Law: Harry Toro Minutis, Minetus. Is Harry here? Harry Toro Minetus. Ok. Next, Veronica Wagner. Yeah but you gave me her before to take this one out. You put her there.

(Someone on the Gaming Commission Board): (Something incoherent)

Kevin Law: I know, and then you put her here. Which time is she doing?

(Someone on the Gaming Commission Board): (Something incoherent)

Kevin Law: Oh. Hold on one sec folks. This person's substituting at.

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(Someone on the Gaming Commission Board): (Something incoherent)

Kevin Law: Oh ok. Oh then Veronica is going at 5:10. Ok I'm sorry, Veronica's not now she's at 5:10. At now we have Carl Corla. Sorry for the confusion folks. Five minutes.

Carl Corla: Thank you very much for the opportunity to present a different point of view against that no one has heard that until today. Honored members of the Gambling Location Board and everyone assembled here. My name is Nikud Colare (Hebrew). For the last year I have been aticate for the Orthodox Jewish Residence that resides in the Catskills and the rabbi who represent the overwhelming majority of the four hundred thousand residents of the Catskills Student of Summers which has charged me with the task on speaking on behalf of the community. This board has been presented with Sullivan County that has run down, no vitality, and it's only change for survival is the siting of a casino in its midst. However this descriptions practically false. Sullivan Ulster County is home to proximately four hundred thousand summer residents and a sizable of vieron orthodox Jewish residents that have already been living there for tast sixty years. Our community is developed and build homes and camps in areas which are valued in the billions of dollars. Furthermore, our community pays the vast majority of property taxes in the area and has provided Sullivan County with its livelihood for the past few decades. We feel that our way of life is now continued existence in Sullivan County seriously being threatened by supposed locating casino in the heart of our community. I wish the register, our biggest protest, the man in which our community has been treated by the gaming commission. On numerous occasions we have requested a chance to present the concerns of our community to Gaming Facility Location Board and by allegedly disregarded that we also did not get a response from people in the governor's office. On May 12<sup>th</sup> members of our community attended the boards meeting in Manhattan and were assured by the then acting executive director of the Gaming Commission that a public hearing would be held in Sullivan County in the summer months so that the board could hear and take into account considering of our summer residents. It's on a website that someone could get from New York that you could see the pictures. This hearing was not held and instead the current hearing which is nearly one and a half drive from Sullivan County, two hour drive from Brooklyn, is being held today which is tomorrow night which is a Hashanah. We have very few people able to make it. I certainly object to the board making a decision without holding a meeting in Sullivan County proper at a time that's mutual convenient. I believe that such a meeting all of the residents of Sullivan County including the year round residents who do realize that a casino in the kind climate would be a liability to the health of Sullivan County rather than an asset. Since my time is short I will state our opposition. A highly command Empire Resorts is partly PR and the town to town supervisor for opening a dialog with us and their willingness to try accommodate our communities concerns with their proposed projects. We have no opposition to the siting the casino at the Nevele. Such a location would be far from the center of our communities and would therefor only minimally affect us. However we strongly object of the construction of a one billion dollar Las Vegas style casino from being built at the Concord and will use only available to valid vets and the courts to vent construction of such a casino. We believe that such a large edifice would draw unsavory people to the area, create unreasonable traffic to our homes, and destroy our summer commuters in the area. The alternative presented by Empire Resorts for a hundred seven million dollar casino

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should be debated but thus far Empire has failed to present a plan to what this project would look like is there for kindly impossible for us to assess the impact it would have on our community. We wish to vass the very important point; while little attention has been given in fact of a casino on the way of life of four hundred thousand strong orthodox Jewish residents it seems that much greater weight has been given to minor evectional concerns. We support the place of a casino in Tuxedo, which would likely have a more lasting existence and would it would an empire owned source only if they forced them to reduce their proposal to the Concord to a hundred and seventy seven million. The vote to not eliminate the Tuxedo project due to minor environmental concerns and award the license onto the resorts Mohegan Sun which would allow them to build their proposals Vegas Meccas in the heart of our community. In summary, new developments have resulted in major changes in the projected benefits of a casino in the Catskills accordingly. These decisions should not be made lightly. In all fairness to the applicants in Sullivan Ulster County if the board intends to award a license in Orange County location, the board's decision should be bifurcated. The board should first announce that it would allocate a casino to Orange County and then allow the remaining applicants to adjust their proposals so that a profit decision can be made. In any event no decision should be made regarding the Sullivan County location until further public hearings are held in the area. I thank you for giving me this minimum time to talk. With the amount of time I hope that a public meeting will be scheduled in the near future. Thank you.

(Spoken in broken English)

Kevin Law: Thank you. Next up is my friend Philip Mars. Philip.

Bill Thompson: All for Philip.

Kevin Law: He's a friend. We met him yesterday.

Bill Thompson: Are you stalking us?

Phillip Mars: I'm still full-horse.

Kevin Law: You are still Phillip Mars.

Bill Thompson: Call for Phillip Mars.

Phillip Mars: And I do have an answer for your question at the end.

Kevin Law: Phillip since you heard it yesterday you only get four minutes today, alright?

Phillip Mars: Ok I'll try to do my best.

Kevin Law: That's good.

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Phillip Mars: Thank you and it will be a little bit of a repeat. I'm Phillip Mars and I'm employed as the CEO of Proctors, the capital regions performing arts center. I'm here to tell you as a volunteer chair for the Upstate Theater Coalition For Fair Game. A group of all the thirteen municipal and not for profit performing facilities with over a thousand seats that serve the citizens of all three gaming regions. Fair game formed about a year and a half ago driven by each of what of us had heard from colleagues from around the country detailing the negative impacts experienced when confronted by gaming and particular when that gaming included substantial live entertainment options. But we also were joined together with the clear goal to supporting the governor and the legislature and to advise each of what we have learned in engaging our peers. We talked to refine the gaming application expectations so as to improve the likelihood of long-term gaming success. This was an unprecedented collaborated and collaborative effort. An upstate-wide coalition working together to ensure access to the arts for all New Yorkers in a changing world. We knew we represented interests of millions of citizens and patrons but we had not convened or worked together before and the prospects of success seemed initially slim. Specifically we noted that gaming impacted local entertainment facilities in three ways. One: gaming facilities where communities entertainment dollars were spent regardless of live entertainment. Two: where gaming facilities had live entertainment there were significant changes and where performers performed. This resulted from an industry wide standard called date and location exclusivity often one hundred days and one hundred miles. In other words performers who worked at gaming facilities almost never again performed in non-casino facilities. And three: things change. How a gaming facility would begin may not indicate where it would be even a few years in the future. By way of example we noted the twenty five percent reduction at live events at Shea's in Buffalo, the result of gaming facilities nearby in Niagara Falls. An even greater impact was experienced by downtown facilities in Hartford, Connecticut and Providence, Rhode Island due to Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun. The governor and the legislature heard our message which resulted in strong language in the RFA which was further clarified and strengthened in the written public question and answer process to require negotiated relationships between gaming applicants at impacted entertainment facilities with a goal of protecting and enhancing those significant public and philanthropic arts investments. We developed and presented to all the applicants four ways to work together for mutual success. First to declare and agree on a scale of intended live events by the gaming applicant. Second to support a mitigation payment should that anticipated level of activity change. Third to establish regular and consistent communications regarding bookings and to be in the use of the exclusivity agreements. And fourth to support the local facilities through participation in a fund to support the Fair Game Theaters and to support smaller local arts activities through a competitive grants process. We are pleased to say that in the three regions, twelve of the sixteen applicants have signed memoranda of understanding with us. In some cases those memoranda, the gaming applicant had to alter the plans they had for live entertainment facilities significantly. In some cases we made decisions to communicate regularly in ways we never thought we would do before. It's not all a success yet, we must wait to see which applicants are selected. We need to see a few as a siting commission can help us reach agreements with the other four applicants should one of them be selected. And finally we need to see if the understandings we have developed will result in firm agreements as selected applicants bring their projects to fruition. In any event, we are miles ahead of where we were just eighteen or twenty months ago. Here in the Catskills we have MOUs with Caesars,

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Empire Resorts, Greenetrack, The Nevele, and Genting Resorts World. We feel strongly that we can work with these applicants. We also believe that the local institutions that are within this region that have come together: Bethel Woods, Ulster Performing Art Center, and the Bard Avon will continue to collaborate regardless of the manner reflected in the agreements. We believe Fair Game evidences are a remarkable and sincere effort to support and preserve the facilities and programs for which we daily fight so hard. Faculties that have defined our communities for sometimes over a century. Can you imagine life in the Catskills without the Bardavon? Or not Bethel Woods. Or life in the capitol region without Proctors or Spac. That is why we are bound to each other so tightly. We thank you for understanding our concerns and giving us a way to help shape our future. And an answer to your question sir. The one I couldn't remember. In the capital region East Greenbush did not participate and in the Catskills Mohegan Sun, Hudson Resort, Saratoga Harness, and Cordish Group in the southern tier as you'll find out tomorrow everyone participated.

Bill Thompson: Oh, thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

Phillip Mars: Thank you.

Paul Francis: Wanna save yourself a trip? Wanna save yourself a trip and just say how it came out at the end?

Phillip Mars: How?

Paul Francis: Wanna save yourself a trip to Ithaca and just...

Phillip Mars: All three signed in the southern tier and another representative is going to Ithaca about the repair. But we're here for all three regions for you, we're here.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

Bill Thompson: Have a good trip home.

Phillip Mars: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Jasper Kline. Is Jasper? No Jasper? Daniel Murphy. Thom Mclee. Charles North.

Charles North: Good afternoon and welcome to Dutchess County.

Kevin Law: Hi Charles.

Charles North: My name is Charlie North. I'm the president and CEO of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce and we welcome you here to our home. Firstly let me say that

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we do not object to casinos being built in Sullivan County or Ulster County. We do however believe that Caesars is an organization that will deliver what we need here in the Hudson River Valley and in New York State. You know they did their homework when it came time to select a location and the Woodbury location makes plenty of economic sense. We looked at all of the locations and we tried to be as objective as we could. Easy access at the fork in the road, Routes 87 and 17. Our primary intersection in the great state of New York. A great location, hub, center of activity, center of the universe and Caesars has committed to leave the state twenty million dollars to improve the exchange and that is needed and has been needed for a number of years. Now we can get that done. It's also no secret that Caesars neighbor, Woodbury Common, is a magnet for shoppers locally regionally as well as state wide. And then there's the extra added benefit of tourists from outside our United States shopping there as well. An international magnet well-known throughout the world and to be coupled with Caesars name, also known internationally. A brand that will bring more visitors than any other applicant. A perfect match made in Orange County. The Caesars Woodbury proposed location is the perfect spot for Caesars New York to create a gateway to tourist attractions in New York. And I know that Caesars has plans to market New York's attractions and events to their customers. This activity alone will have a positive economic ripple effect. Not only in our Dutchess County but in the entire state of New York. There proposed Caesars Woodbury location will attract many customers and connect these customers with the masses of people that are unemployed. Yep there's a larger population there and here and yet larger number of unemployed people that sorely need jobs. Caesars estimates that they'll generate two hundred and thirty million dollars in the state and local taxes annually. I believe that figure will be more. Additionally more tax revenue will be generated by ancillary businesses near the proposed location as well as Woodbury common generating more tax revenue because of the increase in activity they will receive due to the magnetism of the Caesars brand. Of course this increase sales activity leads to more jobs. Once again, Caesars will create forty five hundred direct jobs. Guess what? There'll be additional jobs created outside the Caesars perimeter because of increased activity in the area. Not a bad thing. Increased tax revenues. Increased employment. Also Caesars has reached out to Orange works as well as our Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce Workforce Development Division ensuring that residents that live in disadvantaged communities will have an opportunity will be gainfully employed. We're very excited to work with our friends at Caesars. To have them employ folks that will have their wish come true. To finally get off public assistance and become productive citizens in our Hudson River Valley communities.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

Charles North: They're involved with the arts. They've involved with the disabled community. They're involved with the veterans and I've had the pleasure of dealing with Caesar's folks and in the beginning of our relationship I did my homework. I checked with my counterparts in the country and the reports I got were stellar. Committed to the communities in so many ways. Not just writing the check but employees there to serve the communities. Whether it be the disabled community, the veterans community, to make a better place for all. The C that begins the name of Caesar also stands for commitment. They're here for the long-haul ensuring that our communities will thrive. Increased tax revenues, jobs, arts, there're here for all of us.

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Kevin Law: Time's up.

Charles North: They have a fine reputation and I'm betting on it. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Daniel Vaughn.

Daniel Vaughn: Good afternoon gentlemen. I'm Daniel Vaughn. This is Wayne Courts. I'm not gonna take five minutes so I would like to share my time with him if possible?

Kevin Law: Sure.

Daniel Vaughn: I'm a resident of Woodbury and also I own a business there. I've been a resident for quite some time. I am the president of the Chamber of Commerce in Woodbury. I also belong to the Woodbury Community Association. I firmly believe that Woodbury is the best location for a casino and with Caesars International running this resort, it will give the best opportunity for bringing revenue into New York State. Caesars is the largest gaming entertainment company in the world. They have already committed to shop local and have done so thus far. Unlike others who I know have shopped online outside of the state of New York for things such as all the signs and t-shirts in this room. I have a sign shop, I can spot stuff that is off-line. Such, uhh let's see. Caesars has a proven track record. I'm sorry I can't read my own handwriting. For hiring local, buying local, and giving back local. Also as the president of the Woodbury Chamber of Commerce I have noticed that the vendor form, not last week, a few months ago they did that. The employment form last, not last week, a few months ago. And also veterans, they've helped veterans for many many years. The best option for New York is Caesars.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

Daniel Vaughn: Also I have a petition of over four hundred signatures I would like to give to you. This was collected by two businesses in Woodbury in a short period of time.

Kevin Law: Great. Give it to Rob over there at the table. Watch your step. And your name for the record?

: Thank you commission for allowing the opportunity for me to speak to you today. My name is Wayne Courts. I'm married. I have four children and have lived in Central Valley for twenty five years. I own a business there called Falkirk Estate and Country Club. We employ of over seventy people. It's not easy in this economy to run a golf course and a catering facility but we manage to do a pretty good job and we know how important it is for the state to generate a revenue so it can lessen our tax burden. Caesars is the best employment option for the state of New York, the best operator for the state of New York, and it's the best location Woodbury. Woodbury Commons is right next door to Caesars. Fourteen million visitors a year, world renowned international tourist's attraction. It's number one in the world. Caesars, already partners with the Simon Properties and will do so here. Almost connected to this site you can shop at Woodbury

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Commons and enjoy the amenities at Caesars New York. Literally right next door. Proven most successful shopping center, right next to the proven most proven successful shopping center in the world. Caesars can make this destination a success forever with their forty five million customer database. Caesars is the best operation since 1937 their commitment to community and their business partners. They've held vendor forums in July. They've had employment forums already during the summer. They've held veterans hiring forum and have a record of doing that for years. We need the best operator for the state of New York. Why does the best operator matter? It matters because competition will come. The Meadowlands, North Jersey, Caesars will be the best operator to run a successful world class resort in the future for New York State. Record of success; they just opened Cleveland, Cincinnati, Baltimore. I have called on other communities. I did my research and so can you. Caesars does give back. They work with community. They work with local vendors. They provide excellent jobs with excellent benefits. Caesars is not the only the on, Caesars is not only the best for Woodbury but it's the best for the state of New York and all the communities; Sullivan, Dutchess, Newburgh, and Middletown. Commission, ok why am I here commission? New York State is going to have casinos, the question is where. We need to capitalize on gaming. We are losing out on tax revenue and jobs. The very best location with the very best operator, Caesars Resorts. Woodbury Commons draws fourteen million people a year out of state residents. We want to extract those dollars from people from all over the world, not New York State residents. Caesars has forty five million people in their customer base. They're gonna be attracted to our New York State location. This is a key difference from our location and the others. Let me repeat, forty five million customers from around the world coming here to spend their money in New York State. Thank you for your time commission.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Next up, Daniel Vaughn. I thought we just did that. No I'm sorry I didn't check you off, I didn't check you off.

Bill Thompson: You had to think about it.

Kevin Law: No you can't come back.

Paul Francis: Not a chance.

Kevin Law: Peter Mcgoldrick.

Bill Thompson: Can I come back? No.

Peter Mcgoldrick: Good afternoon I appreciate everybody waiting til I got up here to talk and I appreciate the effort the commission's making to get feedback from the communities and again I'm Peter Mcgoldrick. I'm a long-term resident of the Town of Woodbury. In fact both my wife and I are long-term residents and right now we're both retired looking towards living the dream of retirement. And we see projects like this as very strong aspects towards helping us who are already tired staying in the houses that we're in in areas that we're in. I think one of the things that the commission can take out of the last eight hours and unfortunately the next four hours is

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that everybody that's gotten up is extremely proud of the areas that they live in and they want to stay there and they want to see something come in to spark growth and to preserve those areas.

Kevin Law: That is coming across loud and clear.

Peter Mcgoldrick: And I thought it was just me that got that impression as I was sitting here.

Kevin Law: No.

Peter Mcgoldrick: But I'm there too. I'm extremely proud of the Woodbury area. I've been a long-term person who gives back to the community. There's a lot of volunteering that goes in in the Town of Woodbury and I'm there all the time. And I'm really looking forward to taking that, those volunteer efforts and helping the town that I love so much. And having Caesars be part of that because they have shown us many times in their presentations that they do that. I think what, in my mind, what the commission needs to look at is a very strong partner because I think that the stronger the partner in a development like this it's gonna make the impact larger. And I think the Caesars brand could make that impact go beyond Woodbury. And I think they're looking for that. There's other communities out there. I really think that many if not all of these projects are gonna benefit things like Stewart Airport. And I for one love flying out of Stewart Airport and I'd love to see more flights out of Stewart and I think the Caesars brand where it is will provide that. But what Caesars will also do, being right next to the Metro North Train Station, it's gonna be another diverse way of getting clients and resort people to come up from the New York City area and not clog the roads. But we know we have traffic issues and Caesars has already stepped up and said that they are gonna help the New York State DOT fix the intersection at 131 which is something that as a long-term resident I see as a desperate need for us. I almost missed kickoff at the Giants game because on Sunday I have to get past Woodbury Common to get down to the Meadowlands so I know what it's like to get that intersection fixed. And I'm really looking for Caesars to be that partner to help the traffic, help the economy of the area, and be a strong enough partner that it's gonna help a larger area than some of the other projects may.

Kevin Law: Good.

Peter Mcgoldrick: But I thank you for your time and and I don't envy you for the job that you have ahead of you but I really appreciate the efforts that you guys are doing.

Kevin Law: Thank you Peter.

Peter Mcgoldrick: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Michael Queenan.

Michael Queenan: My name is Michael Queenan. I'm the mayor of the Village of Woodbury. I'd like to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak. I'm really not sure what's left to say.

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I don't wanna bore you with all the agreements, MOUs that Caesars has with municipalities, school districts, organizations, and businesses. I'll just start off and some of the points I was gonna make were already touched on so I'm gonna leave them out. But the community support was overwhelming in favor of Caesars New York Casino. And both the village board and the town board voted unanimously in favor of the casino. Woodbury and Caesars are the clear choice. Woodbury for its geographical location and Caesars for being a world class organization within the gaming industry. Woodbury is at the cross-roads of the New York State Thruway Interstate 87 and Route 17, the future Interstate 86. This location also features a metro north train station. This site is approximately a hundred and thirty acres and is ideally suited for a hotel, conference center, or resort style casino. The Woodbury location and the strength of Caesars will accomplish two goals. It will bring in the most sustainable revenue stream for the state and provide economic growth for Orange County and our neighboring counties through the creation of good jobs. The casino initiative only makes sense if it is sustainable. In the near future there will be a casino in New York City and a very good chance of another in New Jersey. This will have an impact on all the Hudson Valley Casinos locations expect one; Caesars New York in Woodbury. I can say this because the people are already coming to Woodbury. The two biggest tourist attractions in the Hudson Valley, the Woodbury Common and WestPoint, which generate in the neighborhood of thirteen to fifteen million annual visitors to Woodbury. No wonder why many of the other casino applicants that are here today were once seeking the Woodbury location. The location in Woodbury can withstand the competition from down south and continue to provide desperately needed revenue to the region and state. I've heard a lot about failing economies and the need for jobs and a robust Orange County economy. The economy on Main Street in Orange County remains in recession and there are more people unemployed in Orange County than in Sullivan. In order to pay their mortgages, taxes, and just survive; many of our residents in Woodbury and Orange County get up beat shoot warning and leave Orange County to earn a living. The majority of Woodbury residents commute to work in New York City, New Jersey, Westchester, and other locations outside of Orange County. So it would be reasonable, excuse me, to assume that the good people of Sullivan and Ulster Counties and our Orange County neighbors could commute to Woodbury for employment opportunities. It is more important to have a long-term sustainable economic engine in Woodbury that can endure the competition and continue to exist as a profitable enterprise that will benefit the entire Hudson Valley. We are also hoping the leverage of strong consumer demand for the shopping centers, shopping outlets and Caesars to entire metro north to run a second track allowing for increased train service to the area. Which again would be another economic engine for the Hudson Valley. I should mention that there are no casino tax abatements in Woodbury and is Caesars offsite investment for the I-87 Route 32 Exit 131 Interchange would not only mitigate casino traffic but also the Woodbury Commons traffic which is desperately needed and the state keeps pushing that project date off and off. So with Caesars coming to, the potential of Caesars coming to town, it's a welcome traffic relief. Gentlemen the measurement of success is the longevity of the project and the key to that is to pick a location that can survive any future competition and continue to provide jobs and generate revenue for the foreseeable future. Thank you again for the opportunity to speak.

Kevin Law: Thank you mayor. Andrew Regenbaum.

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Andrew Regenbaum: Good afternoon Chairman Law, commissioners. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you this afternoon. Now I've been reading the papers over the last week or so and months leading up to this this hearing and apparently they have some foresight into what all of you are thinking in terms of what we need to tell you in order for there to be a casino successful applicant.

Paul Francis: We're not sure what you need to tell us.

Andrew Regenbaum: With all due respect to the papers ability to read into all of your minds, I thought about it a lot as I was traveling on vacation on happenstance to Las Vegas and and part of what I saw and read in actually the Vegas papers was about how Las Vegas's model for casinos has changed over the years in order to make them remain successful as a entity and as a business model. And what they've done is they're not just casinos but now they are entertainment. They are facilities that bring in different things for people to see in do and actually the Caesars guys who were here, I love their properties out in Vegas and I would tell you that I enjoy being at them. But in terms of what we expect here in New York and what we're looking for in New York should look a little bit towards the Pennsylvania model. Where they've put single casinos, standalone casinos in a variety of different locations in order to help those areas and they wanna do it so that each of those casinos don't cannibalize the other areas. So when you folks have been asked, and I think that one of you during the last set of hearings that we had up in Albany which I attended, you asked the folks in Sullivan County and you said if there's a casino in southern Orange, would that mean nothing in Sullivan? And I believe the Mohegan Sun representative said we can have a casino if you have one in Orange. And that didn't seem right to me because here you have in Pennsylvania you have Mohegan Sun sitting there with a casino in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Less than forty miles away, there's a casino in Mount Airy at the Old Times Resorts in the Poconos. Both are successful, both work together, and both compliment each other. We have the opportunity to do that here in New York and I suggest to you that there should be a casino in Sullivan County because that is part of what the governor and his legislation envision. But there should also be a casino in Orange County because that's how we're gonna best maximize the dollars for our state. And I'm here not just as a representative, an elected official in the Town of New Windsor, but I'm here as a business owner in the County of Orange and more importantly and most importantly as a father and a parent of three kids and a husband to a family that lives here in Orange County and we've grown up here. And what we need in order for there to be a successful coexistence of properties is for there to be a casino in the eastern end of Orange County. And the best location for that is Stewart Airport. You've heard everyone tell, from Genting, from Caesars, from the folks down in Woodbury, that Stewart is an engine that we need. Well Greenetrack wants to build a casino at Stewart Airport. It's an airport. Not a residential neighborhood, not something that's going to need twenty million dollars in infrastructure improvement, not something that needs a new off-ramp built, it's already there. The reason that Greenetrack, the folks with pockets that aren't nearly as deep as Genting or nearly as deep as Caesars can come to you and say that we can build a casino and help the state is because those things are there at the location at Stewart. The infrastructure's there. The SEQRA's been done. But what they're gonna do is they're gonna turn

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round and take the money that these guys are saying and put into infrastructure and that's not just because of the goodness of their hearts, they need traffic to move through those intersections because otherwise no one comes to the casino. You guys know that. So what these guys are gonna do instead is they're gonna built a state of the art sports complex that's gonna benefit the entire region. That's not a Jim for New Windsor. That's not a Jim for the people in Hudson Valley. That is a legacy for the state of New York. This is a hundred twenty thousand square foot facility that will build the first of its kind indoor aquatic therapy center along with an Olympic style ten lane fifty meter pool along with indoor gyms, three turf fields by use of the entire region. And when the governor envisioned the economic impact, that's sport complex will provide revenue for the state separate and apart from a casino. That is the vision that Vegas has already seen and successfully worked on. The millions of dollars that you will hear about that come from that sports center alone could very well trump the casino. An average sports thing, and all of you have had children and grandchildren, you know we have to travel around to go soccer events, swimming events, those things bring in thousands of participants, thousands of spectators which create thousands in tax dollars, thousands of dollars in revenue, and I'm about to go over or I went over.

Bill Thompson: No you're not.

Andrew Regenbaum: You understand it and I thank you for your time gentlemen.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Kenneth Walter. Frank Gallagher. Oh is Kenneth Walter walking up? Sorry Frank Gallagher is on deck, Kenneth is coming up. Hi Kenneth.

Kenneth Walter: Hello. Good afternoon gentlemen. Glad to see you here. My name is Kenneth Walter. I've been on this planet for seventy three years and lived in Sullivan County except for those times I went to college. I believe to understand what the future will be for Sullivan County we have to look at what made the Catskills. Besides the Fallsburg schools where I graduated there were three other schools. One of them was Ellenville which took up in the Town of Warwarsing. Liberty which took up the Town of Liberty. And Monticello which is in the Town of Thompson and Mamakating. During the good years the area covered by the school systems above had a robust middle class. Main streets were busy. Large and small private businesses flourished. Restaurants galore to choose from and in all the hamlets. Places for couples and families to go for entertainment and employment opportunities for young people. Some place during the 70s and 80s the economic climate in Sullivan County picked up speed in going downhill. We watched small and medium hotels shutter. Bungalow colonies decline in popularity. Some place in the 80s and 90s we lost a major part of our agriculture disappear when a lot of our eggplant farms closed. Over the past fifty or sixty years Sullivan County has tried to help itself. The resort industry, members of the resort industry in the 50s built Monticello Raceway and for many years it was a very successful destination in activity for many of our summer guests. The county invested in an airport to benefit the resort industry. In recent times Allan Gary built Bethel Woods for the Arts. Which has been very successful in bringing people to the area. Empires own to now the Industrial Development Agency have worked tirelessly to bring industry to Sullivan County. All these activities have helped, but they have not built an

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economic, enough economic mass to improve salaries in Sullivan County. A good part of the middle class that exists in Sullivan County is resulted in government employment. Town, county, state, and federal. The other part of our economy that supports the middle class is the healthcare industry via the not for profits because of third party payments. They are hospitals, long-term care facilities, physical rehab facilities, addiction rehab facilities, and facilities that cater to the mentally and physically challenged. From the time I was in high school til November 5, 2013 there has always been a push to have legalized gambling in New York State. We the people finally got to decide if we wanted to have gaming in New York. It passed with 74% of the residents of Sullivan County supporting the measure. We do support it because we understood the purpose of this amendment in the constitution was to improve local economies of depressed areas. With Sullivan County being second poorest in the state, we surely qualify. One casino or two is just a piece of the puzzle for the revitalization of Sullivan County. The county is a natural destination resort area with the many off campus activities available to our visitors. There's golfing, fishing, kayaking, hiking, hiking trails, rafting, bicycling, theater, concerts, pottery trails, antique trails, and farmer markets to name a few. As a destination resort it'll be more than just a casino but will include hotel rooms and banquet rooms again becoming a destination for conventions and conferences. You the commission have a choice for the Hudson Valley. New York State could choose a casino that would put up a lot of money in a short time in a public til like Genting is promising or choose a location where by the standard of living by many will be improved therefor reducing the demand for public assistance and Medicaid, which we all pay for. Creating an economic climate where small businesses can flourish and main streets will start to see the hustle and bustle again. Best case scenario for Sullivan County is two casinos in the Town of Thompson. People looking for decent jobs will travel up to forty five to an hour away. These jobs, that means that people will come from as far west as the Delaware County line past Roscoe. As far north as up 209 in Kingston. Down 1786 to Harriman into Pennsylvania Pike County and east to Newburgh Beacon areas. Many areas will benefit outside of Sullivan County. There is one disturbing thing about the whole process. Casino operators who wish to build a casino in Orange County try to curry favor or from others by promising to provide large sums of money up front for various things. Well this works in other parts of the world or areas. I feel as dead wrong. A bribe by any other name is still a bribe. Pay your taxes and don't offer large sums of money to curry your friendship and support of others. Donations will gladly be accepted after the fact as you're a part of the community.

Kevin Law: Kenneth time's up.

Kenneth Walter: Can I close? With an economic revitalization of Sullivan County residents will see an improvement in the quality of homes, the quality of education, and improved tax base and therefor improving our quality of life. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Frank Gallagher.

John McIlhargy: Commissioners I'm not Frank. My name is John McIlhargy. I'm on the ballot later and I was asked to take his place right now.

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Kevin Law: Frank's asking you to take his place?

John McIlhargy: Yes.

Kevin Law: Alright, and what's your name?

John McIlhargy: John McIlhargy. Want me to spell it for you?

Kevin Law: No the floor is yours.

John McIlhargy: Thank you. My name is John McIlhargy. I'm the general chairman of Metropolitan Swimming and we are one of the largest sports groups in the state of New York. I am speaking to the Grand Hudson Project in New Windsor. Grand Hudson Project in New Windsor will provide the needed development, direct jobs impact, and overall economic impact. But that's not why I'm here. As one of the largest sports organizations in New York we're not here to endorse a casino. The developers of the Grand Hudson Project understand that large development projects of this nature must provide an endowment for valuable local community health and wellness and recreation opportunities. Their support for a new support center in New Windsor will help increase and diversify the impact through sports economic impact supporting state-wide youth events as well as regional and national events. Sports economic impact is relatively recession proof and will further the support of hotel impact, business employment, and further tax revenues. We're sure all the projects here have many great attributes but only one chose to make the sports recreation project a legacy and that's a legacy that is generational. Thank you for your time.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Javed Afzal.

Javed Afzal: Good morning members of the board. My name is Javed Afzal and I'm an attorney with the law firm of Whiteman and Oysterman in Albany, New York. Here on the behalf of the Village of Kiryas Joel and in strong opposition of two applications before you. By way of background, the village is located in Orange County and in close proximity of Caesars and the Town of Woodbury as well as the Live Hotel and Casino in the Village of South Blooming Grove. Both of these casino projects will have significant adverse impacts on the village and its residents with respect to water supply, sewer capacity, traffic, as well as negative impacts on the quality of life. As you know, a board resolution passed by the host community is only one component in siting factors criteria. The board must consider resolutions and comments from nearby local governments. Especially those that raise significant substantial negative impacts on the community. In this respect, the village has passed it's on municipal resolution in opposition to the two casinos. Indeed as you may know, the village has also commenced separate legal proceedings challenging the actions under respective host communities for their rush to enter legally binding contracts to facilitate casino development without adequate review of its potential impacts which is contrary to state law, specifically the State Environmental Quality Review Act otherwise known as SEQRA.

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Dennis Glazor: Excuse me. Which two casinos again? Live and what was the other one?

Javed Afzal: The Live and the Caesars.

Dennis Glazor: Ok thank you.

Javed Afzal: Now in addition to my oral comments today, the village will submit a set of written comments explaining in detail its arguments in detail against siting casinos in Woodbury as well as South Blooming Grove. But I'll summarize those points for you today. First there's serious community concern about inadequate water supply. The casino project will require large volumes of water that will adversely affect existing limited water resources in the neighboring communities. Existing and expanding water resources must respond to the needs of the local community before it's sold off to outside developers. Host community, I'm sorry, host municipalities have pledged to help design and permit a well project. However in committing to these projects to provide water supplies; the municipalities and developers have failed to acknowledge where the water would come from and its environmental impacts and they failed to consider the sources and a separate administrative permanent process required by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Second, increased water use leads to increased demand for sewer treatment capacity. That leads to my second point. Inadequate sewage treatment capacity and the potential adverse effects on the nearby Ramapo River. The project will generate large volumes of sewage requiring treatment that will over burden the Orange County Harriman Waste Water Treatment Plant. The public record has indicated that the treatment plant may only have sufficient capacity to serve its members through 2015. Now that does not include over hundreds of thousands of gallons of capacity needed for these casino projects. Sewage treatment required by the casino is not only in excess of what's available but the pledge to provide it was an ultra-virus act as the host municipalities have no authority to provide district treatment to the casino projects without the consent of the county or the sewer district. Third, adverse traffic conditions already exist in the proposed locations. Casino projects will generate increased traffic, noise, odors, pollution, and a whole host of other undesirable economic environmental impacts and will directly affect the residents of Curious Joel as these roadways are integral to the gateways to the village. Finally, SEQRA requires implementation at its earliest possible time prior to taking any action. Host communities have passed resolutions and entered into host community agreements in effect committing themselves to future decisions related to the development of the casinos. Yet no environmental impact studies have been performed so as to inform those in charge to decide whether or not to support the casinos. As such, the municipal actions and the resolutions which the applicants have submitted are void as a matter of law and should not be relied on you members of the board. To conclude, the Village of Curious Joel strongly opposes the proposed Caesars Casino in Woodbury and the Live in the Village of South Blooming Grove due to significant adverse impacts with respect to water quality, sewer capacity, traffic, and quality of life. On behalf of the village, I thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak today and we look forward to submitting our written comments for the consideration.

Kevin Law: Javed, two things. First was this an Article 78 did you commence or?

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Javed Afzal: Two of the locations have been commenced and those petitions have been filed.

Kevin Law: So what you've commenced Article 78 in state supreme court where?

Javed Afzal: I believe here in Orange County.

Kevin Law: Orange County. And have the municipalities responded and moved to dismiss?

Javed Afzal: They were just submitted as petition so.

Kevin Law: You've just commenced the actions.

Javed Afzal: That's correct.

Kevin Law: Got it. So they haven't responded yet?

Javed Afzal: That's correct.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

Javed Afzal: And those papers will be forthcoming.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Ok now we go back to the registered list. 4 o'clock Dr. Theodore F. Swartz. Is Theodore here? Theodore going once.

Bill Thompson: Sold.

Kevin Law: Mary Grenz Jalloh and I understand Brian Gambro will be reading her testimony. Gambino? I'm sorry. Is that correct?

Brian Gambino: Yes sir.

Kevin Law: Brian the floor is yours.

Brian Gambino: Thank you sir. I'm reading this for Miss Jalloh. Member of the US Gaming Commission Location Board. Thank you for the opportunity to share my comments today. My name is Marry Gens Jalloh. I am director of the Adult Career Education Center of Ulster BOCES. I'm speaking here in support of the Nevele proposal for economic development to the establishment of a full service family resort exclusive gaming in Ellenville. I am the first to admit that I initially had reservations about gaming establishment. My background in the public health makes me aware of some and social factors that can follow gaming facilities. My ability to be here today to speak on behalf of the project is as a result of spending the past two years in planning meetings of the Nevele staff and other community providers to frame how this would

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fit in our community. First let me clarify the role of my organization and this is workforce development. The project provides the opportunity to build on what the intent of the legislation is; to support distressed and economic of the Catskills region and upstate, positively impacting employment in these areas. While the Nevele is shovel ready to begin this project, also BOCES is ready to fully support the workforce training needs to ensure the Nevele in work ready. Our nationally accredited hospitality program will begin, I'm sorry, will provide the Nevele with employed who not only have the skills to serve a premier resort but also work readiness skills to ensure they are successful as employees. So back where I am able to support this project, beyond the explicit impact it will have on the employment, economic development, I am able to support it for the following reasons. One, the Nevele project is being led by CEO Angel Brunner with the expertise in global financial investment as well as community redevelopment. Her success is, in the right settings, utilizing premier hospitality and resort development and strategies and her commitment to personally invest her time and effort to get this project off the ground and critical to success. Every resort that plans to include gaming needs top expertise in this field. The Nevele has CEO Catherine Mercy who brings over three decades of experience in every phase of the casino development. We're sure that this will be a success. She has launched many successful projects in the US and internationally. Understanding the finances, operations, and staffing needs of the gaming industry. Three, leaders of the project have considered the issues associated with this industry and have established a clear relationship with the New York State Council of Problem Gambling. They have established a clear, oh I said that sorry, discussed with my proposal and self-training to provide on issues related to safety and responsible alcohol serving. The Nevele intent is to address these issues of concern and confirm this commitment to be a responsible community partner. Four, the Nevele has worked to include device interests of the community. To support this effort ensuring that they will be, they will not be dissension when this will approved. Education and business partners have been at the table including government and private sector. Five, the concept of the project is a premier resort in its destination. This will be inclusive gaming as the name clearly indicates the Nevele Resort Casino and Spa. First named is a resort helping to support further development the rich potential for the destination.

Kevin Law: Brian time's up. You can submit your letter, the rest of your letter but the time is up.

Brian Gambino: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Greg Goldstein.

Greg Goldstein. I apologize for not wearing a t-shirt of color. But I'm with Sullivan County and proud to be here. Good afternoon. My name is Greg Goldstein and I am president of the Miser Insurance Agency in Woodburn, New York. I would like to thank the board for allowing me to speak on as important issues to Sullivan County and New York State. I was born and raised in the Sullivan County Catskills. My wife and I raised a family there and I am fortunate enough to have our two sons return to our family insurance business. Sullivan County is a beautiful yet resilient county. We have seen the best and the worst of times. We now finally have a chance with your help to put us back on the map as a resort destination of the east. We are perfectly situated with approvals and infrastructure needed to welcome two resort casinos in our county.

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To help spur long overdue economic growth of new business and new jobs. To businesses like mine, two casinos in Sullivan County means the opportunity to write new commercial and personal insurance policies. The resort casinos in Sullivan County come with promises of new hotels, new restaurants, and new retail space and many many more opportunities. By awarding two casino licenses in the Sullivan County Catskills thousands of people will be afforded new good paying jobs. With new jobs come the potential promise of new homes, new cars, new families. And when insurance agencies like mine are writing new commercial and personal lines, we can to hire new employees. Call it trickledown economics. Call it economic jobs. I call it good business that's good for the Sullivan County Catskills. The place gentlemen where the legislation was clearly intended in the first place. With your foresight, the placing of two casinos in Sullivan County will spur growth and give the people of our county reason to be optimistic again and keep children here to raise families for our future success. I am asking that you make your recommendation based upon the intent of the law and you will be proud to say that you part of the rebirth of the Catskills. Thank you and I for one appreciate all your hard work. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you Greg. Thank you Greg. Frank Scartados. Not here? Karen VanHouten. Whoop whoop. Sorry Frank somebody said you weren't here.

Frank Scartados: I'm here.

Kevin Law: You're here I see that. Welcome Frank.

Frank Scartados: Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

Kevin Law: Five minutes or less please.

Frank Scartados: Ok very well. Gentlemen the purpose of the upstate New York Gaming and Economic Development Act, which I have the opportunity to vote for, was to create jobs and foster economic development in communities that are in desperate need. I'm here on behalf of the people of the 104<sup>th</sup> Assembly District which includes much of the heart and the soul of the Hudson Valley. The three major cities in this district, Pokipsy, Beacon, and Newburgh, the most employed people in manufacturing are now faced with empty abandoned buildings, high unemployment and crime rate, and a great deal of skepticism and mistrust. According to the 2010 US Census, an alarming 28% of residents in the city of Newburgh and twenty two percent of the residents in the City of Pokipsy live below the poverty line. These number are not only troublesome, they are the great obstacle to revitalizing these once prosperous cities. I'm here today to support the Hudson Valley Casino and Resort Plan to establish a world class casino in the town of Newburgh. The HVCR at the intersection of I-84 and I-87 has the best chance for success, the greatest likelihood of supporting an economic resurgence throughout the region, and a direct impact on these cities that so desperately need good paying jobs, In addition the Hudson Valley Casino and Resort is the only project that would benefit the Newburgh and Lodge School District that is faced, that is faced with more than ten million dollar deficit and will help to lift the burden of school taxes on this very needed community. The Hudson Valley Casino and Resort is the only project that both compliments and has the least impact on the Sullivan County

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projects. It will not compete with visitors traveling to Sullivan County casinos from New York City as the exit to get to the Catskills is at the Monticello Route 17 which is south of Newburgh. I believe, I strongly believe an attraction can be created by the two casinos as the Hudson Valley Casino and Resort in the Town of Newburgh is on 17K and I-84 because of easy access to the Catskills. HVCR supports unions. They currently have agreements with the New York Hotel Trade Council and all contracts will be union. I've been a businessman all my life and one of the most important elements of success is location. Well there's no better location nor a greater need than that of the City of Newburgh as well as the City of Pokipsy. That is why I strongly support the transformative project in Newburgh and I'm very excited about the possibilities and the financial benefits it presents to our communities most in need. Thank you very much gentlemen.

Kevin Law: Thank you assemblyman. Karen VanHouten Minogue.

Bill Thompson: Is that a yes?

Kevin Law: Yes. Karen.

Karen VanHouten: Good afternoon. This gentleman would like to switch with me. Is that alright?

Kevin Law: Sure.

Karen VanHouten: He goes first? Ok.

Kevin Law: Not you just him.

Karen VanHouten: Just him?

Kevin Law: Ok thank you, your name?

Gerard Galarneau: Thank you very much. My name is Gerard Galarneau. I am the chief executive officer and chief medical officer of Catskill Regional Medical Center. The only hospital in Sullivan County. I'm also a practicing urologist with fourteen years practicing urology in the Hudson Valley. I'd like to say that the, if you wanted to make an estimate about somebody's health, you tell me where they live and that's gonna be a more accurate representation of the chances of them having good health than their family history. So that somebody's zip code is actually a more accurate representation than their DNA code. And if you have the misfortune of being a resident of in within the zip code of Sullivan County you are much more likely to die before your time. Whether that's from suicide or from drug overdose or from ortho core morbidities that happen to people within that county. Let me tell you two stories. There was a woman who came home after eleven hours of work. She started developing symptoms that were consistent with a stroke and she knew that because her mother had suffered a stroke a few years earlier. She tried to call her daughter and felt that she was talking to her daughter but the words weren't coming out right and then she knew. She got in the car. She

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drove to Catskill Regional Medical Center. On the way she lost the ability to use her right hand and her right leg. She barely got out of the car and was laying in our parking lot where one of our staff members found her. They brought her into the hospital and with a mechanism that we have had, we quickly diagnosed her with a stroke. We were able to ascertain when her stroke started by the time on the clock on her phone as to when she had called her daughter. And that fell within a window where we were able to give her a lifesaving medication. And within forty five minutes she was able to move her leg, her arm, and speak. The hospital had become a stroke center one week prior to her coming to the hospital. The idea of developing a stroke center at Catskill Regional Medical Center was not a new one. In fact the approval, the application sat on some CEO's desk for seven years. But if you looked at the finances and what it took in capital for the hospital to do that. It was as you would say in business a money loser. The organization was waiting for a CEO to step up and understand that the human aspect of that decision far outweighed any monetary aspect. The second story is a primary care story. I'm a practicing urologist. I saw a patient who had blood in the urine. Realized he had symptoms and other issues for several weeks. He had that insurance that nobody takes. But because we have a primary care clinic within our facility, I said this is something that is much more than just blood in the urine. He went and saw our primary care doctors and was diagnosed with endocarditis. He had had an infection in his heart and was admitted to the hospital and was saved. If I tried to get him an appointment at another doctor's office, they wouldn't have taken him based on his insurance. Those two stories are stories that, both of those, both of those business models lose money in Sullivan County because of the finances of the community. The, we can't just take care of the people with poor insurance and no insurance and think that organization can survive but we have to be able to take care of those people. Having two casinos in this county and bringing finances and bringing insurance and bringing money that will help this only hospital, and if you look at the geography of Sullivan County if you're having a stroke in Sullivan County and you think that you're gonna make it to another county to have care or another primary care office, you're sorely mistaken. We are the only game in town. We are the only nonprofit in the area. And the financial aspect ramifications of having casinos, it, we talked about money the whole time, those casinos are gonna save lives. The healthcare indicators in that county are horrible and the finances from those casinos, those two casinos in Sullivan County, will save lives.

Kevin Law: Thank you very much. Gerard just did something that I think very helpful and I could just share this with you. Again we have so many more names that we're not gonna get to everybody. We've heard a lot of great information from all of you today. If you're gonna come up and repeat something that we've already heard, not as useful to us as something that we just heard for the first time drawing that connection between generating revenues for healthcare and you know in the community. So if you be cog, if you could be cognoscente of that and if you come up and try to not repeat what's already been said but maybe say something different and new and even if you trail short, that means we can get to more people. Otherwise certain people on the list we're just never gonna get to. So now we're going back to the list of people who signed up and the first person there was Rob Jeroloman, mayor of the Village of South Blooming Grove.

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Karen VanHouten: Gentleman may I have five minutes? Karen VanHouten Minnow Community Assembly.

Kevin Law: You just switched. You just gave your five minutes away.

Karen VanHouten: Oh ok.

Paul Francis: You swapped with somebody who's further on the list.

Kevin Law: Didn't you hear my story about the two guys last night?

Bill Thompson: No obviously not.

Kevin Law: No. No they tried that last night. Couldn't do it then, can't do it now. But thank you though.

Bill Thompson: Don't make him tell it again.

Kevin Law: It was funny. They laughed. They laughed.

Bill Thompson: The first time.

Kevin Law: Ok we have the mayor, the mayor Rob.

Rob Jeroloman: Yes how are you? Thank you for letting me speak. My name is Rob Jeroloman. I'm the mayor of the Village of South Blooming Grove and I'm here on behalf of the residents of the Village of South Blooming Grove. South Blooming Grove is a bedroom community and unfortunately a lot of my residents are committed to their jobs and they are unable to attend. So I'm here to represent not only the village board but also my residents. We believe that South Blooming Grove is one of the best locations with the strongest team in finance and ground up development of gaming facilities and management. As the mayor I can tell you the village board is unanimously in support of this facility. The location will be successful since it close to a population center of New York City and its suburbs, Bergen County and in close proximity to the Woodbury Commons who boasts an excess of approximately thirteen million plus visitors a year. A large number of people and tourists within the sixteen minute drive with the proposed location will sustain the casino even if new casinos are authorized in southern New York or Northern Bergen County or northern New Jersey. The site is located in the villages water district and sewer district. Our infrastructure is located right outside the property and we do have enough sewer capacity allocation for this site. Our allocation is through a contract with Orange County Sewer District Number 1 which is from a 1978, 1988, 1995 agreement with Orange County Sewer District Number 1. The short drive distance of less than three quarters of a mile of a ride on Route 208 to the Route 17 interchange. Route 17 is a major thoroughfare within our area will allow for the least amount of impacts on our community and the 208 can be expanded for up to four lanes with the right away that the state presently has. These changes that Cordish and Penn

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have agreed to fund will improve the intersections and will benefit all who travel on 208 not only the residents of the Village of South Blooming Grove but also the neighboring communities. In total Cordish and Penn have committed of over thirty million dollars in infrastructure improvements that will help in the surrounding communities not just South Blooming Grove. The partnership of Cordish and Penn means the applicant can self-fund the entire project with the need, without the need of a outside funds or loans. This was an important question our village board had back in April and we requested information from their CFOs to confirm this. A unique part of the New York live or Cordish and Penn application is the H2V2 proposal that has the ability to provide more than seven thousand eight thousand additional jobs to the entire Hudson Valley area not just South Blooming Grove. The partnership commit to employ local including local employees including the cities of Newburgh, Middletown, Port Jervis and buying locally and have so in every jurisdiction they are located with and they also have project labor agreements that they've executed with the local unions to ensure that all phases will be strong union jobs. Based on what I have seen and heard in jurisdictions that these partners have built; they are a great corporate citizen completing all of what they have promised to do and have made large charitable contributions to the local areas. The partnership operates some of the most profitable casinos in the Mid-Atlantic region Maryland, Live, and Charleston, West Virginia. We unannounced to our applicants, we went down and personally visited these locations. My police chief traveled with me. Also council traveled with us. Well after we went and spent time on the casino floors, also went around to the location and announced that we were there and we requested a back, a back door or a back scenes visiting to see where the employees come in, where the operations where, how things were done. They accommodated us with the police chief as I said with us going through there. We got to see how they interacted with their employees. How they interacted with their customers. We also contacted the local jurisdictions including law enforcement to find out what, how they mitigated impacts to the community. Again we did this unannounced at both times that we went down there. Just so that we could see without them being prepared, what was going on and how they conducted their business overall. If you have any questions for me I would be more than happy to answer them. We do have a lawsuit that is pending. We believe it's a frivolous lawsuit. We're gonna fight it vigorously. This isn't the first time that this situation has been brought up by the same municipality regarding sewer capacity and the village has prevailed during our lawsuits in the past.

Kevin Law: Thank you very much mayor.

Rob Jeroloman: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Next is Curly Dillard.

Curly Dillard: Thank you. Good afternoon members of the Siting Board of the New York State Gaming Commission. My name is Curly Dillard and I am a member of the Orange County Legislature representing the City and Town of Newburgh. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I'm here today to voice my overwhelming support for the Grand Hudson Casino and Resort. When I decided to support the Grand Hudson, I stepped down from the nine member Orange County Gaming Committee but you should know that my understanding is that

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a majority of committee members support the Grand Hudson and they're individual legislative capacities. I'm not aware of any other proposal that has specified gaming committee members support. I don't believe that anyone would argue that non-profits are essential to the well-being of any community. We support the work of churches, schools, parks, hospitals, and community centers. I was raised in Newburgh and over the past forty years I have watched the city decline. Newburgh is a city in distress. We have buildings falling to the ground and a crumbling water and sewer system. Local state and federal government officials have concentrated most of the state's most vulnerable citizens like mentally disabled homeless individuals and parole these into our city without any sources or opportunities needed for success. Our educational system is rated by the state as the most depressed school system in the state based on the number of single moms living below the poverty line, the number of abandoned buildings, unemployment rates, and lack of educational achievement. Over one third of our citizens over the age of twenty have lack a high school diploma and our children are failing in school because they do not have the proper tools needed to succeed. I know there is no lucky seven that can immediately make Newburgh the queen city it was back in the 40s and 60s but I believe that Greenetrack has a formula to put Newburgh on the cutting edge of prosperity. I am confident that Newburgh would change for the better with a company like Greenetrack in its back yard. Luther Winn of Greenetrack and his team understands that investing in people to help improve their lives is what development is all about. The educational scholarships for youth. The job training programs for young and old. The transportation services. Commitment to veterans and higher paying jobs and benefits will go a long way to reduce poverty and more importantly, rebuild my community. That's what the proposed casino development should be about. Improving the quality of life for people. With the Grand Hudson, the state will have a partner to do just that. I urge you to join me in support of the Grand Hudson proposal and grant them a license. Thank you very much.

Kevin Law: Thank you Curly. George Green.

George Green. Good afternoon gentlemen. I'm George Green. I'm supervisor to Town of New Windsor. I wanna thank you for this opportunity to address you today. As I'm sure you're aware, Stewart International Airport is located in the Town of New Windsor. The town acquired approximately two hundred and fifty acres when the United States Government, when the last military installation moved out. In addition we've acquired other buildings and grounds through the brack process, the base closure and climate. As you're also aware Grand Hudson has acquired a contract for a hundred and forty of those acres. I and the town board consider it, consider us fortunate to be part of the team that is bringing the Grand Hudson Proposal to you. Let me start out by telling you what we don't have to do on Stewart Airport. We don't have to build a multi-million dollar interchange. The state of New York has already invested fifty five million dollars in direct access from Route 84 which provides direct access to the New York State Thruway. We don't have to build an extensive infrastructure, the way of water and sewer. They've been in place for decades and we consider this capitalizing on a new investment. We don't have to wait months to complete a SEQRA process. That has been done and the planning process is well on its way and there has been permits issued. Let me address a few points in the host community benefits agreement. Early on in the process we identified a need for sewer disposal on Stewart Airport because of a high BOD load in casino effluent and I don't

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know how that reflects on those of us that like to frequent casinos but we decided that maybe we'd put a package plan on Stewart in lue of sending it to our treatment plant. But we decided against that mainly because we'd have to go into a receiving stream and then on into a wetland. So we decided we were gonna use the thirty inch sewer main that the state of New York provided to service Stewart Airport and again we're capitalizing on an investment already made by the state. As part of this process, Greenetrack has provided us with five point five million dollars to upgrade some of the pertinences to our sewer plant in the way of a tricking filter and primary settling tank and some belt presses. The developer agreed to provide five hundred thousand dollars each to our police department, our ambulance core, and the fire district for whatever services we deem necessary. The developers provided three point one million dollars to renovate the former army reserve station headquarters located on Stewart Airport. Not only will this serve as a new police home for our police department but a new home for our police academy. For a decade now the Town of New Windsor has provided facilities for the Orange County police training facility that services not only New Windsor and Orange County but the entire Hudson Valley. In addition to the obvious tax revenues and sharing financial benefits the casino has agreed to provide five hundred thousand dollars each to the Newburgh school district and the Cornwall school district. Which are adjacent school districts in the Town of New Windsor. As part of the host community agreement, Greenetrack has agreed to provide two point five million dollars to the Town of New Windsor strictly as community benefit. This not only means community benefit for New Windsor but community benefits for surrounding communities. Additionally they have agreed to provide, I'm sorry, the developers agreed to complete the demolition of the derelict buildings on Stewart Airport and if any of you have ever drove down International Boulevard they are an eyesore and they certainly do distract from the airport. You heard councilman Andrew Regenbaum speak of the sports complex that they're gonna provide. This will be a unique complex in the state of New York and they're gonna provide fifteen million dollars for it. But let me tell you the most important thing I see. For years now, decades, we have heard ever politician in the state of New York, federal politicians, local politicians, county politicians tell Stewart Airport as the great economic engine of the Hudson Valley. Gentlemen I would submit to you that this is the opportunity to bring that promise to fruition. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Eugene Watkins. Eugene Watkins. Joseph Shabbat. Kara Walker. Alex Bojdesri. Neil Kraus.

Al Samuels: Excuse me.

Kevin Law: Yep.

Al Samuels: There was a switch, Al Samuels with Neil Kraus. We switched times.

Kevin Law: And what time were you?

Al Samuels: Around 8 o'clock. Neil and I did go outside and switch times.

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Kevin Law: What's your name sir?

Al Samuels: Al Samuels.

Bill Thompson: This is the guy who made the good trade.

Kevin Law: And they did write it down. I did see it outside. Al you never would of made it.

Al Samuels: I never would have made it.

Kevin Law: You never would of made it. But you're here now so.

Al Samuels: Yes and I wanna thank you for setting a new tone of asking for things new just when I was about to come up in my section.

Kevin Law: We reversed that outside didn't we?

Al Samuels: I know you did it on purpose but that's ok. I will try and actually honor that for you and even stay in the green. I'm Al Samuels. I'm president and CEO of the Rocklin Business Association. My county is not in the mix for a siting but we are a regional organization with twenty four percent of our membership coming from the Hudson Valley. In addition to that I have the privilege of serving on the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council and certainly in that capacity we are very concerned about region and the companies that we look at in our evaluations. We try and find out to what extent they will best benefit the region not just the host community where they are located. I bring that same perspective to you today. We have looked at the various applications and I will admit that any one of these organizations will bring a value to our region and to the state. But we're most interested in seeing who will bring the greatest value to the largest portion of our region and we believe that Caesars New York will do that. We take a look at the culture that Caesars brings to New York. In my capacity as a member of the regional council I have recently been named to chair the Veterans Work Group. The veterans issues is one that the governor gave us and we accept it gratefully because as a veteran I'm certainly committed to trying to help my brothers and sisters who have served. Caesars comes with a culture that embraces veterans. You have had heard that before so I won't spend a lot of time on it. They also come with a culture that embraces people with developmental disabilities and not too many people know that. They work with an organization in Las Vegas that works in this area and with the demise that this dissolution that the sheltered workshops which have provided employment for six thousand workers New Yorkers with development disabilities. There is a tremendous need for new job opportunities for this people. Caesars gives us a culture that embraces that and it's one of the reasons why we support it. Additionally Caesars has an attitude of helping the region. You heard earlier from my colleague Charlie North here in Dutchess County. They have arrangements with Charlie. They have arrangements with us in Rocklin. One of the things that we can offer and you heard this from the mayor of Woodbury when he talked about Woodbury Commons and West Point as two of the top two tourist attractions in New York State and how it would complement Caesars and Woodbury. We are

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privileged in Rocklin County to have LEGOLAND interested in creating a LEGOLAND theme park in North Rocklin which would be fifteen minutes from the Caesars site. Think about the opportunities that we could have to bring people from worldwide and of course across the country into the region when we have a LEGOLAND, when we have a casino like a Caesars project, when we have Woodbury Common, when we have West Point. That portion of the state could provide tremendous economic advantages for the region and for the state and I would hope that you gentlemen could consider things like that when you consider where a casino should be sited. We believe that the culture that Caesars brings to New York is a culture that embraces region, not just the host community. It's a culture that we know embraces veterans, people with developmental disabilities. They will reach out in the region. Their concierge service wants to know about tourism opportunities in the region. They're not looking to just make captives of the people that visit them. They want to include the region. And I just went into the red and I will end there. I hope you gentlemen will take that into consideration and I thank you for your time.

Kevin Law: Thank you Al. Thank you. Is Tiambi Carter here? Tiambi? I'm sorry I skipped you before.

Tiambi Carter: Thank you for the opportunity now. My name is Tiambi Tali Carter. I am an attorney serving the Mid-Hudson Valley. I have the pleasure of working with the Newburgh Professional and Business Association as well as the Orange County Arts Council as well as the Black History Committee of the Hudson Valley. So I think I bring a unique perspective to the needs of this region. What I call my valley. On behalf of the small business community, I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to voice support for the Grand Hudson Casino and Resort. Small businesses as you know are the backbone of this nation's economy. We create two out of every three jobs across the country. And we are at the epicenter for the local economic development revitalization. Not everyone understands that small business is the heart of any community. We live in the cities. We work in the cities where we do business. Our children go to the schools and we work the local dry cleaners and the delis. We fix your watches and your jewelers. We go to the same parks and our families worship together. We are inextricably linked. So it is important that we consider what comes in to our communities because we are the small businesses living in this community. So what sets up shop here is important to us. Now when I first heard that casino projects were looking at Orange County, I was very concerned. I thought a massive economic development project might take revenue from small businesses. And many of the proposals that we've heard about will do just that. But then I had a chance to meet Luther Winn and the folks at Greenetrack and to hear their plans for partnering with small companies and that they're willing to use our expertise in the community to work together and help us rebuild our struggling communities. Business to community partnerships are at the cornerstone of the Grand Hudson Proposal. Together we will create thousands of good paying jobs and that is no short thing. But also we will have the opportunity to have thriving careers. Not just jobs that are good paying but jobs that will actually increase our quality of life. Because at the end of the day folks want a opportunity to thrive. And that means having challenging work challenges. You see the folks at green, at Grand Hudson understand that small businesses do so much more than create simple jobs. They will provide employment to people that are often considered unemployable. Who are often overlooked and may even be considered undesirable by larger corporations. So it is

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important that we enstress that Greenetrack is willing to be a partner with those residents. Small businesses are helping to turn around distressed areas like Newburgh and Port Jarvis and we can think of no better partner than the Grand Hudson to help us accomplish those types of goals. Luther Winn of Greenetrack, he and his team understand what it means to invest in people to improve their lives. That is what development is all about. Additionally as you've heard, Grand Hudson will offer educational scholarships for youth, transportation services for the community, services for veterans, and high paying jobs that people who look like me will have access too. That's what the proposed casino development should be about. Improving the quality of life for people. And the Grand Hudson, the state will have that type of partner and I hope that you would join me in supporting that proposal. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Carmen Dubaldi.

Carmen Dubaldi: I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address you this afternoon. I just wanna say that I'm not here representing any group or organization. I'm just a homeowner that lives about two minutes from the entrance at the Stewart Airport and I wanna say that I'm glad I'm standing behind this podium and you gentlemen are sitting up there because you have a really big decision to make. My name is Carmen Dubaldi and I'm here to talk about why the Grand Hudson Casino at Stewart Airport should go forward. As I stated earlier I live only a few minutes from the proposed site and I see it as an exciting opportunity for the entire region and I support it whole heartedly. As a lifelong resident near Stewart Airport. I've heard again and again about how we need to revitalize Stewart Airport. For years I've heard not only my local leaders but governors, senators come to Orange County and bemoan the state of Stewart Airport. To speak to how much it would benefit the region and the state if it was running to its full potential. They all saw the potential but none could turn that potential energy into positive momentum. To turn the key to the engine to get it to run again. Well with your help and the help of Greenetrack, that vision is gonna be realized. I support Grand Hudson Casino and Resort because it offers the opportunity to transform Stewart Airport into the center of commerce it was meant to be. We can turn dilapidated buildings that currently stand there into a hub of commerce for the entire Hudson Valley. Everything is already in place. The infrastructure is there at the site already. The roads are built to take the heightened traffic and it's perfectly situated at the crossroads of I-87 and I-84 to alleviate the local traffic around homes like me. No other site can make the same claim. The Grand Hudson will be the shot of adrenaline the airport needs to transform our sleepy little airport back into the welcoming gateway to the Hudson Valley. And you'll be glad to know I only took two minutes of your time.

Kevin Law: That's great Carmen. Thank you very much.

Carmen Dubaldi: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Carmen a little secret. We tend to remember more of the guys who are shorter. And in terms of the presentations. So thank you. Maureen Hallahan.

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Maureen Hallahan: Good afternoon chairmen. Commissioners, thank you so much for your commitment to this argous and very very important process. We appreciate it greatly. My name is Maureen Hallahan. I'm the president and CEO of the Orange County Partnership in Orange County, New York. That's the office of economic development for the county. Throughout the years Orange County has worked tirelessly to band together and to attract new business and all the while we keep our eyes on the backdoor by helping to support companies that are already here to expand and to retain them and not have them leave us as quickly as they land. Most projects, almost all projects throughout the state of New York attract countless opposition and today is no different. Every project that I've ever worked on in Orange County during my ten year had its share of opposition. And we had to maneuver those waters. However in spite of the opposition and due to very hard work and investment in infrastructure and a commitment from our county business leaders, Orange County has one project at a time built a diverse industry base. My point is that we know how to get things done in Orange County and we've accomplished a lot and we know how support and sustain and grow what we hold dear. Although we're proud of our united work ethics, and we're very proud of our untied work ethics, we have a team of professionals there that work very hard together; we want you to focus on a few facts. So by the numbers if you just count the people Orange County has more unemployed and under employed people than any other county in the competition. Orange County is facing its own very serious economic challenges including a looming sixty million dollar budget deficit right now ad this time. You do have Orange County support. Sixty eight percent of Orange County residents who voted on Proposition 1 were in favor of local casino gaming. Every Orange County municipality in the competition, I know they have to, but they all passed resolutions to support gaming in their local municipalities. The infrastructure: the trains, the planes, the busses, and even our river provide accessibility that is unparalleled by any other county and sustainability. When gaming does open in the New York metro area and in possibly northern New Jersey, Orange County has the ability to continue to thrive. In addition, Orange County has more international visitors than any other county in the state of New York. In closing, I want to ask you that as you review each application with great diligence, knowing that seventy percent of this decision to award a gaming license is based on which project can generate the most tax revenue for New York State and for the entire Hudson Valley, we want you to think very clearly about how everyone can gain by the most revenue generation. When the maximum amount of revenue is generated New York wins, the Hudson Valley wins, and of course Orange County will win too. Thank you again for volunteering your time and your talent for this very important initiative.

Dennis Glazor: Maureen which of the six proposals in Orange County?

Maureen Hallahan: You wanna know my best? You wanna know the one I want?

Dennis Glazor: Even parents have a favorite among six children.

Maureen Hallahan: Let me tell you what I told my kids. You ready? And I'll tell you what I tell my team back at the office.

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Dennis Glazor: I can imagine what you tell them.

Maureen Hallahan: I have a cracker-jack team that works back at the Orange County Partnership and I say “you wanna be my favorite? Be the best.” And I want to say that the one that’s gonna get it done, that’s gonna generate the most revenue, and that’s gonna bring the best to the Hudson Valley. Is my favorite.

Dennis Glazor: Which one of the six produces the most revenue for Orange County residents?

Maureen Hallahan: Sir I’d like to answer that question.

Dennis Glazor: I’d like you to answer it as well.

Maureen Hallahan: Ok I’m an economic developer. I promised myself I wouldn’t go over so I just wanna tell you. We’re the highest tax state, we have the most regulations in the state, and we are no longer the empire state. And as an economic developer I want one in Orange County. That’s the best I can do.

Dennis Glazor: So what office are you running for?

Maureen Hallahan: Thank you.

Bill Thompson: Orange County Supervisor. I’m in support of them all.

Kevin Law: Thank you Maureen. Arry Felderman.

Arry Felderman: Good afternoon commissioners. My name is Arry Felderman. I’m the gov, sorry?

(Audience members): Speak into the mic so we can hear you.

Arry Felderman: Ok. I work as governmental agents coordinator for the Village of Curious Joel in Orange County New York and I thank you for the opportunity to address you today. I’ve only seen my concern of the proposed casinos in Woodbury and in South Blooming Grove from a religious and a cultural perspective. A central tenant of Judaism, one which Jewish people the world over include in their morning and their evening prayers is the creed of do not wander after your heart and after your eyes. Meaning be careful of what you see so it does not sway your heart. In adherence to this creed, Jews through the ages stayed insular and shunned outside influences. They have been living this way for more than eighteen hundred years of Jewish the osperor, even in the days and places where modesty and dress and behavior was the norm. Arriving on these shores after World War II, holocaust survivors were shocked to their core by modern America. Suddenly, the insularity that sustained them in the old country was no longer viable. What with the advent of TV, glossy magazines, and the creeping stylishness of the lest than modest attire. To meet the challenges of the new world and the ongoing evolution of new

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technology, Jewish Orthodoxy finds itself perpetually in need of updating its guidelines. In the past they advised against TV ownership to keep outsider influences away from the ones insular home. More recently, they began advising to install filters on smart phones to keep outside influences out of their pockets. A further effort to maintain this insular tradition was the effort to replicate the shtetl or the small town of yesteryear away from the hustle and bustle of city life. The revered late Grand Rebbe of Satmar by Joel Tetelbaum championed that cause and in 1970 he established a Hasidic conclave which memorializes his name, the Village of Curious Joel. Curious Joel began with just forty families. The Rebbe's most devout followers. And in the tranquil town of Monroe, New York those pioneering families recreated the shtetl lifestyle of a by-gone era. Before long others began to appreciate the religious benefit that this new community had to offer and Curious Joel as a result grew into a community of twenty five thousand residents who embrace this ancient tradition. For forty plus years now Curious Joel residents have enjoyed life unencumbered by the temptations visited upon city dwellers. But all this is about to change by the Woodbury on South Blooming Grove casino proposals which threaten to undo all of that by bringing to Curious Joel's front door the very maladies its residents escaped from. Curious Joel residents therefore view the proposed casinos just a hop, skip, and a jump away from their front door as a moral threat to their way and the values they instill in their children. Curious Joel does not wish to impose its lifestyle on others but a casino at its front door would ill the temptations that brings with it will impose that lifestyle on the Curious Joel community and that is why I was asked to voice their objection. Other proposed sites in northern Orange County and beyond are more secluded and further removed from residential areas and are thus far better suited for casinos. Therefor on behalf of the Curious Joel twenty five thousand residents I ask you please do not approve the Woodbury in South Blooming Grove applications. Thank you.

Paul Francis: Sir, sir question.

Arry Felderman: Yes?

Paul Francis: How many miles from your community are these two casinos?

Arry Felderman: Two and three miles respectively.

Paul Francis: Two to three miles?

Arry Felderman: Yes.

Paul Francis: Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you.

Arry Felderman: Thank you bye.

Kevin Law: Ok Melanie Richards.

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Melanie Richards: Good afternoon and thank you for opening this up to the public. I am honored to speak after somebody that is about to celebrate a happy new years. I'd like to start there by wishing him, and he's a neighbor, happy new year. My name's Melanie Richards. I live in the town of Woodbury. I'm a New York City kid. Mom's a retired teacher, dad's a bus driver. I knew nothing about the Hudson Valley until we came here and fell in love with it and bought a house here and bought my first business and will close my first business in Hudson Valley. So I think from an economic perspective, so not even gonna talk about that. Grateful for the support of the business community and now a good understanding of area non-profits. I'm coming from a place that I never was before. I was a bedroom commuted who fell asleep on the bus instead of reading the newspaper and the one really good thing I've been reminded of with all this talk of casinos is we need to pay more attention to what's happening in our own back yard. We've heard people today speak about fear. We heard people speak about economics. I'd like to talk to you about four things. I paid no attention to this until four months ago so I'm the least likely person to be standing in front of you. What did catch my attention was that a casino was about to be possibly be built in our backyard. At first I thought I was against it and then I did a little more research. Started attending hearings and listening to the people from Caesars about environmental impacts. About building a casino in an area where there already had been an impact study I guess on five hundred and fifty transitional housing units. They seemed like they had their facts together. What I really liked as a business owner and a person who's on the board of Safe Homes of Orange County was that there is community impact, everything they do. So the infrastructure part, I didn't pay any attention to it. I just cared that my short line bus was there on time. Or that I didn't have to wait on a toll plaza. Understand now that transportation is important. Understand about the jobs, about the veteran expos and they had a transportation information session. It's not something I'd normally go to. I don't spend my time at town and village meetings. What I'd like to ask you to do though is to really look at the fact that the infrastructure, everybody's affected by that. And I'm in favor of this casino not only because of their commitment to excellence and not only because of their green sustainable side but because there's a code of a commitment to a community and we really need that besides the economic impact. If somebody doesn't spend some money somewhere in Orange County to help businesses to help people to help kids get hopefully have a hope of a job. To get tuition reimbursement. Those teeny little things. Gas, food, I mean really somebody really needs to help and what I liked is they're attracting clientele at a world class resort in an area that is already built and supports tourism. We already have the international travelers. We already have the local people. We have the national people. I meet at a business networking breakfast that's at the Hampton Inn in Central Valley. To me it reminds me of being a kid in the UN. I hear six or seven or eight different languages over breakfast. That's what you would bring to our area. We need the help because local communities are, and I, there's no other way to say it other than to say it, they are helping us spend our money in other areas. Fighting lawsuits. Fighting legal battles. People have families to feed and if you can't, and I know you're trying to help the most people that you can and get the most impact. Please consider supporting a standard of excellence that may have some impact on dripping down, some really good things, into people's pockets. We'd appreciate that and when you're done with that I need you to bring 'em here because I'm on a domestic violence board and next month is domestic violence awareness month and you're

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wearing t-shirts made in Haiti made in Honduras. Buy something made in USA. Go to a place where something's made in the Hudson Valley. Or in the Catskills. Thank you and have a good night.

Bill Thompson: Melanie what was your business?

Melanie Richards: its prison promotions and now I'm doing event marketing.

Bill Thompson: You try to get people in?

Melanie Richards: No not into prison. I opened it because I wanted to reflect what my clients were looking for. And I opened it because I wanted, I lost my sister-in-law to ovarian cancer and it reminded me; don't just be a check writer, show up and help somebody. So please help us.

Kevin Law: Thanks Melanie. Ok back to our pre-registered list. Richard Travers. No, she gave up her time. Is, Richard Travers?

Richard Travers: Yes. Good afternoon my name is Richard Travers. I'm the president of the Rondout Valley Business Association. I'm here today to speak on the Nevele Resort Casino and Spa. I want to begin by thanking the commission. Thank you very much for providing me the opportunity to speak. Not only on behalf of the Nevele but also on the behalf of the residents of Ellenville, the residents of the Valley and the county of Ulster. The Nevele Resort Casino and Spa, a vision of a hometown family friendly resort and casino that could re-define the Ellenville area. The Ellenville area, currently an unemployment landscape of boarded up shops and little hope. The Nevele will positively impact the entire community, its functionality, and will end unemployment in the region. The Nevele will return the eastern Catskills to its days of glory by restoring a once great Catskill resort. A project that fits snugly into the Catskills and offers more than just gambling. It offers a year round resort which will aid with the economy of a struggling community. From a countywide tourism perspective it offers five miles of rail-trail that will connect to the Ulster County Rail Trail System that ultimately will connect to the walkway over the Hudson. But most importantly this project offers hope. This project represents the most significant private project proposed in Ulster County during the last thirty years. A six hundred and forty million dollar project who's construction impact will provide over twelve hundred jobs over the construction period, over a hundred and twenty one million dollars in spending, and fifty eight million dollars in wages. Once operational it will provide over thirty five hundred direct and indirect jobs to the area with over four hundred and seventy eight million dollars in spending and over a hundred and eighty six million dollars in wages. The Nevele Resort Casino and Spa truly offers the last best hope for this community. The Nevele defines the concept Governor Cuomo put forth when he stated reviving upstate New York's stagnant economy was priority. It also meets the governor's guidelines by employing, by enjoying most major and county-wide support. It is the very definition of what was intended last November; by last November's Proposition 1 vote. The Nevele resort casino and spa will be a premier destination, a premier gaming resort in the north east. It will remain true to it's past; it will incite guests and inspire its people in the present, and help to lead New York into the future. In closing I ask that

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the commissioners to consider the following. That a casino in Orange County will cripple the Catskills including both Ulster and Sullivan Counties. It will create a dam and effectively shut off upstate New York. I also ask you to consider that two casinos in Sullivan County will not help the Catskills. Only a casino in both Ulster and Sullivan Counties will revitalize the Catskills. Casinos in both of these counties will have the greatest impact on the economic revitalization of this region of New York State. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kevin Law: Thank you Richard. Steven Kelly.

Steven Kelly: Good afternoon. I'm Steve Kelly. I'm the president and CEO of Ellenville Regional Hospital and I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak today. Ellenville Regional Hospital is a successful small hospital in Ellenville which is the location that the Nevele shares. We struggle a bit because we're in a difficult economic environment of about eighteen percent unemployment. And so what I would like to do is I would like to share you a vision, or share with you a vision for how things might be different. And how they would be different if you were to grant a license to the Nevele in Ulster County and to one of the other applicants in Sullivan County. In a former career I worked for IBM Information Technology and some of my accounts were very large mall developers such as the Pyramid Group and Wullmerite. And will you build a mall you need anchored tenants and you first go out and get those anchored tenants and then you bring in boutique tenants who share in the traffic that are generated by the anchored tenants. So if you could imagine the Catskills as a giant mall, Catskill Mall, think of it like that. If you bring in major tenants into a mall like Sears or Best Buy that's the small boutiques are gonna benefit. We need to have, we need to have anchors on both sides of the Catskills so that this giant Catskill mall can benefit. The kinds of boutiques that will benefit in between the two casinos will be based on the growth of people coming to the area. So there will be people who will be buying houses who will then want those houses fixed up. That will benefit the carpenters, the electricians, the plumbers, the landscapers, the people that plow the snow in the winter. Those are all small business people that hire employees to work for them. And over time we need to have restaurants to feed all those people. And we need to have stores for them to shop locally. The lumber yards, the appliance stores, all of those folks do better. And so business sort of follows money rather than money following business. And so if we're able to have anchor, anchor tenants, the rest of the businesses will boom. And they will come back. And that was the intent of the legislation to begin with. So my hospital which struggles in a very difficult environment, a hospital that won four national awards last year including the top twenty for quality based on publicly recorded metrics, struggles because we don't have all those large and small businesses in our community to provide jobs, to provide jobs that have health insurance to be quite blunt. So I urge you to grant a license to the Nevele and to another facility in Sullivan County so that you will be able to help the Catskill Mall be developed. Thank you very much.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Just for again for planning purposes for all of you who are staying with us for the duration. Once we make it through this trench of registered speakers then we'll be taking a thirty minute break from 5:30 to 6:30. Or from 5:30 to 6:00 and then we'll start the last session from six to eight. Next up is Veronica Wagner. All set Veronica?

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Veronica Wagner: Oh yes. Good afternoon. My name is Veronica Wagner and I'm here to speak in favor of the Sterling Forest Resort. I'm one of the younger people who have spoken in front of you today partly because I think about the future of Rocklin and Orange County and the casino that I hope to one day be there. I moved to Sloatsburg from Colorado when I was around nine years old and I just fell in love with it. Most of you know Tuxedo, Sloatsburg borders Tuxedo and when I heard about the possibility of the gaming coming I was ecstatic. Thinking back to when, speaking back to how the communities used to rally around the resorts in Colorado, I was hoping the same for the same over in Limbo Tuxedo Ridge. The Sterling Forest will bring stable jobs and also include a much needed boost for local economies. In addition to being a resident of Sloatsburg I think it will help resolve some of the traffic burdens that have been plaguing our town. Currently thousands of commuters come through Sloatsburg Route 17 as a quick way to New York City. Over the last twenty years through Rocklin feels like it's tripled. Orange County needs a throughway entrance before, on the way from Woodbury. I think the completion of Exit 15B would help the insane traffic of our town. Let's face it, something has to change otherwise Orange County is gonna be the next Sullivan County. The middle class has been priced out of Rocklin. Helping save Orange's middle class by bringing jobs is important. I think the revitalization of the Catskills begins at the base of the Catskills, the home of the old Red Apple Rest and the Duck Cedar Inn. It's not just about who deserves it the most but it's also about who can sustain it. Rocklin and Orange County has a strong workforce ready and waiting. Hopefully for your decision. Boy I hate public speaking, thank you.

Kevin Law: You did great.

Veronica Wagner: Two minutes! Bye.

Kevin Law: Even better. Thank you. Franklin Trapp.

Paul Carlucci: I just had a call from Franklin and he asked that I switch places with him because he's stuck in traffic.

Kevin Law: And what's your name?

Paul Carlucci: Paul Carlucci.

Kevin Law: Were you registered to speak later on?

Paul Carlucci: I was signed in this morning at 8 AM.

Kevin Law: Gotcha. Cross you off here but if your friend shows up he can't go.

Paul Carlucci: Right, got it. Thank you. My name is Paul Carlucci. I'm the vice president of the Villa Roma Resort located in beautiful western Sullivan County. The Villa Roma Resort is a full service year round resort hotel. For forty five years we have grown and prospered during a

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tomotous Catskills tourism climate. We have seen the great times when our beautiful area was New York State's premier tourism region. Boasting more than twelve mega-facility resorts and encompassing over five thousand guest rooms welcoming hundreds of thousands of guests on a year round basis. However we have also struggled over the last twenty five years. Seeing those resort hotels fall into ruin and disrepair to the point where Villa Roma is the only viable resort remaining in Sullivan County. Unless you have lived it, it's almost unimaginable to understand the magnitude of this decline. As an example, in 1980 all Catskill resorts did an incredible amount of mid-week off season to operate a business. More than a hundred busses a week from April through June and then again from September through November traveled Route 17 to enjoy the hospitality provided by our resort hotels. This last spring perhaps ten busses in total made that trip. Conventional wisdom assigns much of the cause of this decline to the decreased competition from casino destinations. First Atlantic City, then Connecticut, and now Pennsylvania, Yonkers, and Queens. For all those years the businesses and people of Sullivan County have perused the chance of winning approval for casino gaming as the economic boost for our area only to be thwarted time and time again by interests outside New York State with the dollars to spend to protect those interests. Hopefully now the time has come that the dream will become a reality. That being said the question becomes why Sullivan County? Why Mohegan Sun? Why Montreign? First and foremost the Sullivan County Catskills provides the ideal setting for a destination casino resort. Say Catskills to someone and you will licit responses associated with breathtaking scenery, outdoor adventure, arts, tourism, and hospitality. That comes from over one hundred years of branding and marketing. Think about it. No other location in this region is able to compete with that. Economic need and benefit in addition to what I have already said in regard to the loss of groups and resorts that the region has suffered and all the disastrous economic impact that that has had, perhaps I can offer one example that demonstrates Sullivan Counties plight. A business section headline in Middletown's Times Harold Record that appeared on last Friday September 19<sup>th</sup>. "Job count rises across region. Sullivan County only area to decline." The article goes on to say that in August of 2014 twenty six hundred jobs were gained in Orange Duchess Counties. Eleven hundred jobs were gained in Ulster. And yes two hundred jobs were lost in Sullivan. And this is at the height and top of our peak season. Unfortunately this is a story that appears almost every month in the newspaper. We are in desperate need for the economic revitalization that two casinos will provide and that perfectly fulfill the intent of Governor Cuomo's legislation. Others today will provide the statistics and reports as to why Mohegan Sun and Montreign. I'll just quickly summarize. They are ready on all levels: municipally, environmentally, and financially. They have overwhelming local support. That's the support of full-time year round tax paying businesses and residents who are trying to survive in Sullivan County. They possess the knowledge and experience to operate not only casinos but destination resort properties. And they understand the importance of how their projects can truly be a stimulus for county-wide development prosperity by actively involving and soliciting existing local businesses to participate with them in cross-promotion strategies. The Villa Roma Resort respectfully requests the positive consideration be given to Sullivan County projects. Thank you all.

Paul Francis: Can I ask you a couple questions? We heard earlier this morning from Craig, a family member at your organization. And I meant to ask him this. If there were twelve mega-

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hotels, mega-destinations once upon a time and five hundred hotels plus. How is it that Villa Roma has managed to survive and presumably thrive enough as opposed to all the others?

Paul Carlucci: I think that you know that's a difficult question to answer. I think that our demographic of the guests that we were reaching out to was a little bit different from the Borscht Belt Hotels although we were in the Borscht Belt. You know we were in the western part.

Paul Francis: Is there a difference between the Jews and the Italians?

Paul Carlucci: Yeah. You know pretty much. You know the Italian vacationer was maybe a little bit behind. You know the Jewish market as far as...

Paul Francis: Flying somewhere else.

Paul Carlucci: Right and sophistication. So that was one reason. The other reason I think is you know we really spent a lot of time, energy, and money reinvesting in our resort and in our hotel. And I think that's made a big difference. We're always trying to give our guests something new and try to change to the market's needs.

Paul Francis: How far would you be from the Concord, the old Concord project.

Paul Carlucci: About twenty five miles.

Paul Francis: And if we gave one or two licenses to that area, they would have casino licenses and you would not.

Paul Carlucci: Yes.

Paul Francis: Would that not put you at a disadvantage as far as drawing people to the area?

Paul Carlucci: You know part of what I like about you know the two projects is that they really understand the need of a casino being just another amenity in the entire county that will that will re-energize and be the spark for economic revitalization. And you know we've had meetings with Mohegan Sun. We've talked about course promotion strategies. You know carrying each other on our websites. We've talked about overflow rooms for conventions that they may need. So I think that the other thing is is that, I think Craig said it before, you know one hotel in an area doesn't make a destination but give us three and they will feed off of each other and do well.

Paul Francis: In the legal business they used to say one lawyer moved to town and couldn't make a living until a second lawyer showed up.

Paul Carlucci: And it's the same thing with auto dealerships it's the same thing you know?

Paul Francis: Thanks very much.

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Kevin Law: Thank you. Lee Stanton. Lee Stanton's not here. Lee Stanton is not here. Last one for the afternoon session. Learia Britain. Leary?

Bill Thompson: Gotta like somebody that doesn't show up without a note.

Learia Britain. Good evening. My name is Learia Britain. I'm a resident of Woodbury. I've been researching, kind of listening to all the proposals. Looking at numbers and I feel that Caesars is better because it will give more to the state. It will give more to the local communities. It will give more to businesses. They encourage local businesses to be involved with their total rewards program. So your businesses besides the casino would have an advantageous effect from the casino being there. They also have tuition reimbursement. We know expensive education is and any of the young people that want to work there can go to school and be reimbursed. It has an effect of the educations of the young people as well as the adults and it'll promote the people bettering themselves. It's not just gaming. They expect the people to go and game as well as go to the communities and enjoy what's around. We have within ten miles of where this proposed site is, there's two wineries, there's like I said West Point, there's the shopping, there's so many things in that local area. It's not just gonna be gaming and it's not just gonna be them making money. It's gonna be the whole business community. So I'm gonna make it short because you have all had a long day and so have I and I hope you really consider making Woodbury one of the locations. Thank you.

Kevin Law: Thank you very much. Is Doreen Sass here? Doreen?

Doreen Sass: One of you said you didn't like notes but I'm a former girl scout so I'm prepared.

Paul Francis: It's not that I don't like notes it's that I was admiring those that can come up without them.

Doreen Sass: I know. Well thank you so much for the opportunity to speak with you folks. My name is Doreen Sass. I am a trustee who sits on the board of the Village of South Blooming Grove and I'm really delighted at the prospect of looking forward to a casino in our village. It's a perfect location with easy access to Route 17, to the throughway, to Woodbury Common and we know that that attracts millions and millions annually who spend millions of dollars contributing huge tax revenues to the state. Today I'm wearing several hats. My resident hat, my trustee hat, excuse me, and as a frequent hostess to many visitors. But more about that later. So as a resident, a parent, and a grandparent it's gratifying to know that so many people will benefit from the job opportunities that the Live New York Casino will create. As well as from their support for our local schools and sports teams. As a resident I'm excited at the prospect of thirty million dollars in infrastructure improvements which we sorely need and have been waiting years to get. As a resident I applaud, I really am so excited about the Live New York plan to launch their H2V2 incubator to provide an estimated seventy five hundred jobs to our area. It really is nothing short of breathtaking. When I think of all the people that I know that have lost jobs or people who have recently graduated from college and are desperately seeking job opportunities. So how exciting is

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that to think about? Now as a trustee of the Village of South Blooming Grove and one of its founding members I can assure you that we board members have always sought to do what's best for our constituents. So we did a lot of due diligence and exhaustive research and I'm convinced that a casino in our location will provide such a broad range of benefits to our residents and very importantly that the benefits will also have a very positive impact on our neighbors. As a trustee I wanted to be sure that both the Cordish and Penn National Organizations would be superior corporate citizens in our community. They both received very high grades from everyone with whom we've spoke in a number of communities and jurisdictions where they operate. We talked to government officials. We talked to the police department. We talked to the fire department officials and to area residents and based on their stellar, absolutely stellar reputations and documented success in the gaming field I truly have complete faith and confidence in the Live New York team to deliver the highest quality casino and family entertainment facility. Now back to the more personal reasons why I'm such a strong supporter of Live New York. So by way of background my husband and I are both immigrants. He from Hungary and I from North African from Morocco. We have family literally all over the world including Morocco and Hungary but Canada, France, the UK, South Africa, Australia, and Brazil. I also had the very good fortune to work in Asia for a number of years where i became very close friends with my colleagues from Thailand and China and Indonesia. Those colleagues have, quite simply they've become family. So why do I tell you this? Well I'm going to admit I'm not completely altruistic about this casino thing. Some of it is selfish. They all love to come and visit and especially, all of my family but especially my Asian family and friends love shopping in the US and they love casinos. So while I work there I learned a lot about Asian culture and traditions. And I learned that many Asian folks love gaming and they really relish the opportunity to play. Especially in very high quality venues. And they are willing and able to spend their significant disposable incomes on gaming, shopping, and entertainment. We've seen that at Woodbury Common obviously. They can enjoy a fabulous experience and we in New York State can profit handsomely. I was a successfully businesswoman for many years with a major corporation and based on my experiences working in many countries and not only in Asia I can assure you having really studied this, this is absolutely a win win for the Village of South Blooming Grove. For its residents. For the state.

Kevin Law: Time's up.

Paul Francis: Thank you.

Doreen Sass: Two seconds?

Kevin Law: Two seconds.

Doreen Sass: I'm just so excited to look forward to having all of this good stuff right down Route 208 right near my house where all of my friends and family and so many other visitors can come and shop and play and spend tons o' money that we can benefit from so thank you so much.

Kevin Law: Thank you. Folks, thank you, here's where we are. Just a little bit of information again in our process. We've now already done one hundred and twelve speakers today. We have

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now sat through twenty two hours in the last two days of two hundred forty one and twelve, two hundred and fifteen three speakers. We're gonna do two more hours tonight. We're gonna try to get in as many as we can but we're stopping at 8 pm. I told you we're heading to Ithaca for tomorrow and to the extent you're wondering "ehh was this worthwhile to come down and spend the day here?" Let me assure you it is. It has been. You know the way that this statutory criteria is set up. You know it's supposed to weigh at least twenty percent towards community support and we're learning a lot today. Whether you're in favor of something or opposed to something. We're listening, we're hearing and we appreciate the respect you're showing for one another and for us and we'll see you in about thirty minutes. Thank you.