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COVER SHEET INFORMATION

Hearing Before the: Missouri Gaming Commission  
IN RE: The Matters of  
Spanish Lake Proposal  
and  
Chain of Rocks Proposal  
Date Taken: September 28, 2010

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1 PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE MISSOURI GAMING COMMISSION

2 IN RE: The Matters of

3 Spanish Lake and Chain of Rocks Proposals

4

5 BE IT REMEMBERED that the above-entitled matter  
6 came on for a hearing at the Renaissance St. Louis  
7 Airport Hotel, 9801 Natural Bridge Road, in the County  
8 of St. Louis, State of Missouri, on the 28th day of  
9 September, A.D., 2010, commencing at the hour of 9:00  
10 a.m. of that day, said hearing having been called by  
11 the Missouri Gaming Commission, pursuant to the  
12 issuance of due notice to all parties in interest, and  
13 the following is a transcript of the record made of all  
14 proceedings held during the course of that hearing.

15

16 APPEARANCES:

17 Mr. James L. Mathewson, Chairman

18 Mr. Noel J. Shull, Commissioner

19 Mr. Darryl T. Jones, Commissioner

20 Dr. Barrett Hatches, Commissioner

21 Mr. Jack L. Merritt, Commissioner

22 Ms. Angie Franks, Designated Principal Assistant

23 Ms. LeAnn McCarthy, Public Information Officer

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I N D E X

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4 Proponents of Spanish Lake Proposal:

5 Mr. Jerry Feldhaus 9

6 Mr. Bob Russell 12

7 Mr. Mike O'Mara 13

8 Mr. Patrick Russell 19

9 Mr. Mark Behlmann 21

10 Mr. Dick Kellett 23

11 Mr. Mark Woolbright 24

12 Mr. Don Krank 29

13 Mr. Tim Jones 30

14

15 Opponents of Spanish Lake Proposal:

16 Mr. John Loudon 32

17 Lily 34

18 Mr. John Gianoulakis 35

19 Mr. Paul Schroeder 38

20 Mr. Troy Stremming 39

21 Ms. Cynthia Metcalfe 41

22 Mr. Tom Becherer 44

23 Mr. Michael Spurgeon 48

24 Mr. Richard Sparks 50

25 Ms. Dora Gianoulakis 52

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4 Proponents of Chain of Rocks Proposal:

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Senator Tim Green

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Ms. Susan Trautman

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Mr. Claude Brown

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Mr. Rodney Crim

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10 Opponents of Chain of Rocks Proposal:

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Mr. Troy Stremming

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Ms. Kathleen Logan Smith

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Mr. Ed Bass

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Mr. Bill Mellish

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Dr. Patricia Hagen

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Ms. Peggy Rustige

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Ms. Barbara Floreth

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1 MISSOURI GAMING COMMISSION HEARING

2 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: We need to open this  
3 session by a vote so that we stay legal under Sunshine.  
4 So Chair would accept a motion to open this meeting.

5 COMMISSIONER SHULL: So moved.

6 COMMISSIONER JONES: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Angie, would you call  
8 the roll, please?

9 MS. FRANKS: Chairman Mathewson?

10 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Approve.

11 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Shull?

12 COMMISSIONER SHULL: Approve.

13 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Jones?

14 COMMISSIONER JONES: Approve.

15 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Hatches?

16 COMMISSIONER HATCHES: Approve.

17 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Merritt?

18 COMMISSIONER MERRITT: Approve.

19 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you.

20 Let me, first of all, do a little recognition  
21 for you. A lot of you may not know who we are. And  
22 I'm appreciative of that, to be honest with you. I  
23 used to be that way, but I'm not running anymore. So I  
24 don't care.

25 But I'm Jim Mathewson, and I have the honor of

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1 being chair of the state Gaming Commission. There's  
2 five members and all those are here.

3 I live in Sedalia, Missouri. I had the honor of  
4 serving in the Legislature for thirty years, president  
5 of the Senate for eight of those. We have -- I'm also  
6 a small business person in Sedalia, where my family  
7 lives. So that's me.

8 Sitting next to me is Noel Shull, who has been  
9 on the Commission for some period of time. He is a  
10 retired bank executive from the North Kansas City area.

11 Next to him is Barrett Hatches. Barrett is  
12 relatively new on the Commission. And he has been, and  
13 still is, an executive of utility companies and he  
14 lives in Platte County, Missouri.

15 And next to me is our local person here,  
16 Commissioner Jones, Darryl Jones. He is -- lives here  
17 in the St. Louis area and he is in the concession  
18 business at the airport and has been for many, many  
19 years.

20 Next to him is Jack Merritt. Jack is from the  
21 Springfield, Greene County area. He's a retired  
22 highway patrolman and was a two-term -- he chose to be  
23 two-term -- sheriff of Greene County.

24 So that's who we are, so that you know.

25 I also want to point out to you that we are very

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1 well paid for doing this. We get \$100 a month and we  
2 pay our own expenses. So it's really an outstanding  
3 way for me to build my retirement for my grandkids.

4 Now, in fairness, though, if you want to be mad  
5 at anybody about anything that happens, be mad at me  
6 because one -- for one meeting a month, I get an extra  
7 \$100 for being chairman of this Commission. So I get  
8 \$200. Now, we're having four meetings here in a two-  
9 day period, traveling across the state, and we're doing  
10 it in cars. We don't have airplanes, okay, so you know  
11 that. But we -- so at some point during this three  
12 days that we're together doing these public hearings, I  
13 get \$200 instead of \$100.

14 So I want you all to be appreciative of that.  
15 And none of that's revenue money. It all comes from  
16 the casinos, so everybody can clap for that.

17 So that's who we are.

18 Now, we have a lady sitting right over here that  
19 is recording everything, so as we start calling folks  
20 to come up to testify -- we'll take the proponents of  
21 the first issue, the North County issue -- and please  
22 state your name and spell your name for the lady, so  
23 she can get this recording.

24 Every meeting that we do on this run is --

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Louder.

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1                   CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Okay. We are  
2 recording all the meetings. It's all available some  
3 time after the meeting. If you want it, contact us at  
4 the Gaming Commission in Jeff City.

5                   We're going -- we need to move this along very  
6 quickly because we have two hearings, two scheduled  
7 hearings for the two licensed applications that we have  
8 before us, one in North County and one in North City, I  
9 guess. So we need to move it along.

10                   What I would really ask you to do is please  
11 don't cheer, holler, hiss or do anything else. Please.  
12 Because we're running close on time, and we have  
13 another meeting that starts in this same room, right  
14 after this one, hopefully as close to 10:00 as we can  
15 get it, because then we're going to jump in cars and  
16 we're going to drive all the way to Kansas City for  
17 another meeting for the license application up there.

18                   So bear with us, please, and work with us on  
19 this. And we really appreciate it.

20                   Okay. What have I missed, before we get started  
21 here? Anybody on the commission have any --

22                   COMMISSIONER SHULL: Time.

23                   CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Time. Please hold  
24 your comments to like three minutes, because what we  
25 found yesterday and what we found -- I found in having

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1 chairing hearings forever, for 30 years in the  
2 Legislature is it just becomes repetitious, you know,  
3 please hold it to about three minutes if you can. I'd  
4 really appreciate it. If you get very much over three  
5 minutes, I'll call you on it. Okay?

6           Because we need to move along. We want to hear  
7 you. I committed to you and this Commission committed  
8 to you back months ago when we had applications in  
9 place, we would come back to the communities where the  
10 application was and hear you, both sides. So we're  
11 keeping that commitment. So thank you for being here.  
12 We understand that you want to be here or you wouldn't  
13 take your time to be here, the same as we wouldn't be  
14 here if we didn't want to be here.

15           So with that, anything else anyone has before we  
16 get started?

17           Okay. Let's go. The proponents on the North  
18 County, to start with, on the proponents, the first  
19 name that signed up was Jerry Feldhaus. Jerry? Good  
20 morning, sir.

21           MR. FELDHAUS: Good morning, Commissioner.  
22 Thank you. My name is Jerry Feldhaus. That's  
23 F-e-l-d-h-a-u-s. I'm the executive secretary/treasurer  
24 of the St. Louis Building and Trades Council.

25           I'm here on behalf of 40,000 union trade

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1 families to express support for a gaming license  
2 requested by North County Development, LLC. This will  
3 allow construction of a multi-million-dollar casino,  
4 hotel and needed -- and needed recreation facilities in  
5 North County.

6 Today, in the St. Louis construction industry,  
7 we're seeing massive unemployment, something we haven't  
8 seen in decades. It's a clear reflection of the  
9 nation's economy now in a recession. When you cannot  
10 put food on your table or tell your children there's no  
11 vacation or little spending money to go around, these  
12 families aren't in a recession, it's a depression.

13 With 25 to 30 percent unemployment in the  
14 St. Louis construction industry, the only solution is  
15 jobs, good-paying jobs like the ones that will be  
16 created by this multi, massive project, jobs that will  
17 last for years, jobs that will bring good paychecks to  
18 individuals, economic growth to St. Louis County and  
19 begin a level of prosperity that we've enjoyed for  
20 decades.

21 This project is an economic engine for North  
22 County. For my members, it'll mean millions of man  
23 hours of work for the next decade or so. It's work the  
24 community needs to keep the region moving forward and  
25 what my members need to support their families, many of

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1 them living in North County.

2 I challenge anyone to explain how the proposed  
3 entertainment development, which is over three plus  
4 miles downstream from the confluence of the Mississippi  
5 and Missouri Rivers, has any effect on the confluence,  
6 which is three plus miles upstream.

7 I have an aerial photo, Mr. Chairman, where the  
8 proposed development is and the confluence is. And  
9 there is no evidence that water in this area flows  
10 uphill.

11 An interesting note: Before being zoned for  
12 commercial use, much of this land was zoned for  
13 industrial use, which is much more intense.

14 Further, any concerns with flood water would be  
15 addressed by FEMA and other qualified government  
16 agencies during this permitting process.

17 I'd like to go on record that the St. Louis  
18 Building Trades strongly supports the gaming license  
19 for North County. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you, sir, very  
21 much.

22 Let me -- please, please. We're not going to do  
23 that now. Please. Let me mention another thing that I  
24 forgot before I call up Bob Russell, who is next.

25 We have parking passes available if you're in

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1 the lots out here. Angie or -- Roger, who has those?

2 I mean, they're out -- okay.

3 MS. MCCARTHY: Right here.

4 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Right here. See that

5 lady right here? She has -- make sure you pick up one

6 of those passes so you can get out of the parking lots.

7 Okay?

8 We also have -- and I apologize, I should have

9 mentioned this earlier, but we have, like, a 14-point

10 program here of all of the things that a license

11 application is going to go through, and this is but

12 one, okay, before the Commission will make any decision

13 at all. But I also have a time frame sheet that shows

14 the time frame that we're trying to stay with to make a

15 decision, whatever that is, later on. Okay? So -- and

16 either Angie or LeAnn will have those out in the

17 corridor if you're interested in having one of those

18 later on. Okay? Thank you.

19 Bob, thank you for your courtesy, sir. Proceed.

20 MR. RUSSELL: Good morning, Commission

21 members. My name is Bob Russell, R-u-s-s-e-l-l. I'm

22 here to read a statement this morning from Mayor Robert

23 Lowery, the mayor of the City of Florissant:

24 "Good morning, Commission members. I fully

25 support the casino entertainment project before you

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1 this morning. This project will be a major economic  
2 boost for North St. Louis County and the entire region.  
3 The construction of this project will put thousands of  
4 people back to work that is much needed for our area.  
5 Business suppliers of this project will also put many  
6 more people to work.

7 "I am aware of environmental issues with this  
8 project and I'm a strong advocate for a quality  
9 environment. We can protect the environment by working  
10 together with regulating agencies to ensure the  
11 environment is always protected.

12 "You have the power to put thousands of people  
13 back to work and to get our local economy moving. This  
14 is the right project in the right area, and fully  
15 supported by Mayor Robert Lowery."

16 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you, Bob.

17 Mike O'Mara?

18 MR. O'MARA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Morning, Mike.

20 MR. O'MARA: If I may -- and it may just  
21 add a few more seconds. Congressman Clay has a letter,  
22 if I could read it for him, being that he's up in  
23 Washington? Could I add that to my --

24 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Okay.

25 MR. O'MARA: Thank you, sir.

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1                   CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Yeah. Spell your  
2 name, Mike, so that the --

3                   MR. O'MARA: O'Mara. O, apostrophe,  
4 M-a-r-a. First name is Mike.

5                   CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Okay.

6                   MR. O'MARA: Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
7 Commissioners.

8                   "Dear Mr. Stottlemire --" this is from  
9 Congressman Clay:

10                  "I am writing to congratulate you on your recent  
11 appointment as executive director of Missouri Gaming  
12 Commission and to formally request that you communicate  
13 to commissioners my strong support for awarding the  
14 remaining gaming license in Missouri to a casino  
15 project proposed for North St. Louis County.

16                  "I am honored to represent North St. Louis  
17 County in Congress. This community has suffered from  
18 extremely high rates of employment, foreclosures and  
19 other economic hardships. By the most conservative  
20 estimates, a new casino and family entertainment  
21 recreational development in North St. Louis County  
22 would create 30,000 badly-needed construction jobs, at  
23 least 1,500 new full-time jobs and is projected to  
24 generate an overall positive economic impact of up to  
25 300 million for the St. Louis County local

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1 municipalities in the state of Missouri.

2 "I am also mindful of significant environmental  
3 issues that have been raised by some citizens who are  
4 concerned over -- about preserving the fragile wetlands  
5 and wildlife areas that are adjacent to the proposed  
6 development site. I share their concerns. If the  
7 North County casino proposal wins approval from the  
8 Missouri Gaming Commission, the U.S. Army Corps of  
9 Engineers will conduct an extensive investigation  
10 permitting process. This evaluation will include a  
11 public comment, hearing, and a formal statement  
12 regarding any potential environmental impact.

13 "You can be certain that I would not have given  
14 my support to this proposal without first being  
15 convinced that we can protect the environment and still  
16 create the new economic development and job  
17 opportunities that North St. Louis County desperately  
18 need.

19 "I urge your favorable consideration for this  
20 proposal and I thank you for your outstanding service  
21 to our state.

22 "Sincerely, William Lacy Clay, Member of  
23 Congress."

24 I'd like to add this to the record.

25 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Good. Thank you very

00016

1 much.

2 MR. O'MARA: Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: We will do that.

4 Thank you, Mike.

5 MR. O'MARA: Mr. Chairman.

6 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Yeah.

7 MR. O'MARA: My name is Mike O'Mara. I am  
8 a St. Louis County councilman for the Fourth District,  
9 which this development proposal is being proposed in.  
10 I've been on the council for 10 years. I've been a  
11 resident for 50 years. And I work hard to make sure  
12 that we have good, smart development in North County.  
13 I also am an international rep for the Plumbers and  
14 Pipefitters and we represent throughout the country  
15 about -- over 300,000 members, and in the four states I  
16 cover, over 13,000 members, and we're roughly running  
17 about 30 percent unemployment throughout these areas.

18 This is about jobs, but it's also about  
19 opportunities for the St. Louis region. You know, what  
20 can this proposal do for the State of Missouri? What  
21 can it do for the St. Louis County region? I see it as  
22 a benefit for all.

23 And I know we're going to have some opponents  
24 regarding the environmental issues, and I strongly  
25 support their efforts and what they've done, and

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1 especially the Spanish Lake Community Association, for  
2 the efforts they've done over the years to protect the  
3 Spanish Lake region and development.

4 I honor their respect, but at this time, we may  
5 disagree on this particular proposal. But I think this  
6 proposal can be -- in two different directions, it can  
7 benefit both. We need to be an attraction to the state  
8 of Missouri when we come across that river. This is an  
9 ideal location. You know, currently we're working on  
10 the China Hub, a regional hub, and it's going to bring  
11 new jobs to this area and new attractions, and I think  
12 this can be -- this development can be an attraction  
13 for not only St. Louis County, but coming into the  
14 state of Missouri.

15 I'm a -- I'm an airplane fanatic. I hate  
16 flying, but I love airplanes. And I've worked with --  
17 I've worked with the local businesses. I've worked  
18 with every government entity. I've been working on  
19 some type of airplane museum in this particular area,  
20 connecting our trails, connecting the Katy Trail, and  
21 making this the focal point of what we are about St.  
22 Louis County, making it a museum, a chronology of  
23 events, how St. Louis was formed, how our little  
24 municipalities -- Webster Groves, the Florissant area,  
25 the Spanish Lake area -- we have many attractions to

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1 attract tourists to this area and develop our bike  
2 trails off of this.

3 This is an opportunity for development in the  
4 St. Louis region. A positive development. And it can  
5 be a good learning curve for tourists that come to  
6 the St. Louis area, an attraction for the St. Louis  
7 area.

8 We need jobs desperately, and I think this can  
9 be a positive for the State of Missouri, for the Gaming  
10 Commission and a lot of development can fall off of  
11 this proposal. So we will work with the community to  
12 make sure we protect their environment.

13 With that, Commissioners, I thank you for your  
14 time.

15 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you, sir.

16 Paul Schroeder? Good morning.

17 MR. SCHROEDER: My name is Paul Schroeder.

18 It's S --

19 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Schroeder. I'm

20 sorry.

21 MR. SCHROEDER: S-c-h-r-o-e-d-e-r. I'm a  
22 retired mathematics teacher.

23 And one thing, if you read the paper, and I'm  
24 assuming you do, you know the numbers are not  
25 particularly good for the casinos. The growth has been

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1 at our South County casino, but the other casinos have  
2 been dropping revenue, which it would appear that we  
3 are maybe approaching saturation, if not.

4 The point I would like to bring up as an  
5 opponent of this project is that --

6 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Whoa, whoa, whoa.  
7 Sir, we're on proponents.

8 MR. SCHROEDER: Well, that's why I was  
9 surprised you called me. I signed on the opponent's  
10 side.

11 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Sir, says proponents  
12 right here, Paul R. Schroeder.

13 MR. SCHROEDER: Oh, I'm sorry. That's my  
14 mistake. I was told by the sign it said opponents.

15 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: That's all right.  
16 Maybe you signed both of them. I don't know.

17 MR. SCHROEDER: I don't believe so.  
18 There's more than one Paul Schroeder, though. I'm  
19 sorry.

20 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Okay. Is there any  
21 other Paul Schroeders in here? Okay.

22 Thank you, Paul.

23 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Okay. Patrick  
24 Russell, please?

25 MR. RUSSELL: My name is Patrick Russell,

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1 R-u-s-s-e-l-l. I have prepared a statement.

2 Good morning. My name is Patrick Russell. I am  
3 a board member of the Riverview Fire Protection  
4 District located in North County. As a director, I am  
5 here to offer our support for the proposed North County  
6 casino and entertainment project.

7 In August of 2009, our district and the Spanish  
8 Lake Fire Protection District passed a resolution in  
9 support of the North County casino. Both resolutions  
10 were presented to the St. Louis County.

11 We believe that such a project would have an  
12 overall positive effect in North County. This project  
13 would provide additional tax revenues and attract other  
14 commercial development into the area. More  
15 importantly, this project would provide thousands of  
16 desperately-needed jobs.

17 I would also like to make a comment about the  
18 notion of market saturation in the St. Louis area. As  
19 a local restaurateur in downtown St. Louis, I am very  
20 familiar with competition. I welcome more development  
21 in my business, around my business. Hospitality and  
22 entertainment districts around the United States thrive  
23 when combined with other like businesses, creating a  
24 destination experience for customers. Some familiar  
25 examples are Las Vegas, Lake Tahoe, Reno, Atlantic

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1 City, New Orleans; Tunica, Mississippi and Branson,  
2 Missouri.

3 With the addition of the North County casino,  
4 the St. Louis area has the opportunity to truly expand  
5 our entertainment offerings to locals and tourists.  
6 St. Louis currently has redevelopment momentum. We  
7 need to continue to embrace business development in our  
8 area and help St. Louis reclaim our status as a first-  
9 class city.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you, sir.

12 Mark Behlmann?

13 MR. BEHLMANN: Okay. Good morning,  
14 Mr. Chairman, Commissioners. My name is Mark Behlmann.  
15 That is B-e-h-l-m-a-n-n.

16 I am the immediate past president and current  
17 vice president of the Hazelwood School District Board  
18 of Education. I've been on the Board of Education for  
19 right at 14 years, and I do it for the pay and the  
20 pension.

21 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: I know you do.

22 MR. BEHLMANN: The Hazelwood School  
23 District is geographically larger than the city of  
24 St. Louis. It has 18,500 students and employs 2,400  
25 people. The district budget this year is a little over

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1 \$235 million. 49 percent of our students are on free  
2 and reduced lunch programs.

3 St. Louis County collects all real estate and  
4 personal property taxes from the residential homeowners  
5 and commercial businesses. 85 percent of those local-  
6 collected tax dollars are then delivered to the school  
7 district. Residential taxpayers are assessed at  
8 19 percent of appraised value. Here in St. Louis  
9 County, commercial property and personal property are  
10 assessed at a value of 32 percent, not the 18, such as  
11 residential.

12 We, at the Hazelwood School District, have  
13 estimated that this new development, commercial, at a  
14 quoted investment of \$350 million, will generate over  
15 \$11 million in new tax revenue for St. Louis County,  
16 including the excess commercial surcharge of \$1.70 per  
17 hundred, is another \$2 million of new tax dollars, over  
18 \$13 million of new tax dollars, not including the  
19 personal property aspect of the commercial development.

20 Subsequently, \$8.5 million will be received or  
21 realized to the Hazelwood School District and that is  
22 without the personal property tax. Hazelwood estimates  
23 with the personal property tax, new dollars of  
24 \$10 million, with this \$350 million development.

25 With the current state of affairs in the State

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1 and the funding formula for school districts, school  
2 districts have been reduced the last several years in a  
3 row. These are not gaming dollars that I'm speaking  
4 about. I'm speaking purely about new tax dollars for  
5 the development coming into the community, which  
6 happens to be in the Hazelwood School District.

7           Whether they spin a wheel or roll the dice, it  
8 makes no difference. With a \$350 million investment,  
9 the school district should receive \$10 million plus.

10           The Hazelwood School District and the patrons of  
11 the district fully support this development.

12           Thank you for your time.

13                   CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you, sir.

14 Dick Kellett?

15                   MR. KELLETT: Thank you, sir. My name is  
16 Dick Kellett, K-e-l-l-e-t-t. I represent -- I'm the  
17 president of North County Labor. I'm also on the  
18 East-West Gateway. I don't get paid for that, like  
19 some people. I'm the chairman of St. Louis County  
20 Election Board. I make \$100 more than you do. But  
21 anyway, I'm happy to do it. I'm happy to do it. But I  
22 don't get paid for extra meetings.

23           Anyway, getting to the subject, many of the  
24 people that should be here today, because of the  
25 poverty in the area, in Spanish Lake, don't even have

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1 transportation to get here to talk for their jobs that  
2 they want. I represent 37 different locals, and most  
3 of our people -- I grew up in -- I mean, I didn't grow  
4 up in Florissant. I've lived in Florissant for 53  
5 years. The bulk of these people in the Spanish Lake  
6 area are unemployed. The crime rate has exceeded  
7 almost anything. There was an area that was probably  
8 as fine as any place in North County, and because of  
9 the vast unemployment, the crime rate has gone up.

10           These jobs -- this won't only have jobs in the  
11 construction business, after the -- after the  
12 facilities are completed, there's about 1,500 jobs  
13 there that pay benefits and are -- in dire need for  
14 these people.

15           You know, it's nice to have your pristine --  
16 looking over the cliff and everything else, but all  
17 around that cliff, it's decaying.

18           I ask the Commission and I -- and I hope that  
19 the people here will back us for this casino because we  
20 definitely need the jobs.

21           Thank you.

22                   CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you, Dick.

23           Mark Woolbright? Good morning, Mark.

24                   MR. WOOLBRIGHT: Good morning, Senator.

25 Former.

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1                   CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Former.

2                   MR. WOOLBRIGHT: Commissioners.

3                   CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you.

4                   MR. WOOLBRIGHT: My name is Mark

5 Woolbright, W-o-o-l-b-r-i-g-h-t. I represent the

6 International Association of Firefighters, the North

7 County firefighters, specifically the Spanish Lake

8 firefighters, today. And we would like to go on

9 support of the North County casino project.

10                  Also with me today representing the North County

11 firefighters is Dave Bolz.

12                  You want to spell your last name?

13                  MR. BOLZ: B-o-l-z.

14                  MR. WOOLBRIGHT: Again, we'd like to go on

15 record as supporting the North County casino project.

16 The International Association of Firefighters is based

17 out of -- out of Washington DC. We represent -- excuse

18 me -- about 6,000 firefighters, paramedics, EMTs and

19 9-1-1 dispatchers here in the state of Missouri and

20 about 2,000 here locally.

21                  To emphasize the importance of this casino

22 project to the District -- to the Fire District, on

23 July 27, 2009, the Spanish Lake Fire Protection

24 District Board of Directors passed a resolution

25 wholeheartedly approving of and endorsing the proposed

00026

1 casino project for the Columbia Bottom area.

2           Why is this needed? The compelling argument is  
3 that the economic situation speaks for itself. As  
4 you're aware, regressive tax assessments or assessed  
5 valuations are significantly less since 2007. Tax  
6 assessments have decreased approximately \$15 million  
7 since last year, or approximately 7 percent in just one  
8 year.

9           The decrease is predominantly in residential  
10 real estate values. Tax assessments have decreased  
11 approximately 23 million since the year 2007, or  
12 approximately 11 percent in the past two years. The  
13 decrease is predominantly in residential real estate  
14 values.

15           What does this mean to the Fire District? These  
16 regressive tax assessment equal less tax revenue for  
17 the District and higher tax rates to the district  
18 residents. Also, a significant number of vacated homes  
19 in the Spanish Lake area, which impacts all residents  
20 and the property values.

21           If this was not considered compelling by itself,  
22 consider the following: In fact, the Spanish Lake  
23 area's demise, while well known to St. Louis, has also  
24 received national attention. The demise has been so  
25 significant that it was noted in Forbes Magazine's

00027

1 December 9, 2008 article titled, In-Depth: America's  
2 Fastest-Dying Towns.

3           Hopefully, everyone has had the time to read the  
4 article. If not, please let me provide a brief  
5 synopsis. The article listed Spanish Lake, Missouri as  
6 number six in the top ten fastest-dying towns in the  
7 nation. Here is what Matt Woosley of Forbes had to say  
8 about Spanish Lake, Missouri: "To the north of  
9 St. Louis, Spanish Lake has been unable to attract  
10 highly-skilled, highly-salaried jobs. Only 14.7  
11 percent of residents there have a Bachelor's degree, or  
12 better, one of the lower rates for a city's measure.  
13 Without jobs to attract the highly educated, incomes  
14 have fallen 7.75 percent in the last seven years."

15           This casino would address all these points  
16 mentioned in this article and provide that much needed  
17 economic stimulus to the area. Are we not all here to  
18 help and help those who need our help?

19           The emphasis is a need for jobs and an  
20 opportunity to these highly-educated incomes in this  
21 North St. Louis area. While known to all of us here in  
22 St. Louis, it is now a well-known fact to the nation.  
23 Before us, we have no opportunity to benefit this  
24 community and make a difference.

25           Increased -- we all realize the economic impact

00028

1 of a casino. Increased tax revenues for fire  
2 protection district -- or fire protection districts --  
3 which, in turn, could potentially allow the district to  
4 add potential firefighter personnel, state-of-the-art  
5 technology, advanced equipment and training to better  
6 accomplish the district's mission of saving lives and  
7 protecting property.

8           This casino project could allow for the  
9 betterment of the area, more jobs and influence of new  
10 residents who need to live near work.

11           Though gloomy, as Mr. Woosley was to point, the  
12 news is not necessarily doom and gloom. That's better  
13 because a turnaround is possible, though without new  
14 industry such as this casino project, it is difficult  
15 to know how long this area can remain on life support.

16           I would like to respectfully request the  
17 Commission support the proposed casino project on  
18 behalf of public safety in the North St. Louis County  
19 area.

20           Thank you, and thank you for your time.

21           CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you both for  
22 being here. Thanks for what you do every day, guys. I  
23 appreciate you.

24           MR. WOOLBRIGHT: Thank you, sir.

25           CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Don Krank? Don?

00029

1 Good morning, sir.

2 MR. KRANK: Good morning. My name is  
3 Donald Krank, K-r-a-n-k. I am a councilman from the  
4 city of Black Jack and I've come here to say that we in  
5 North County, we're always looking for -- wanting some  
6 kind of development there, and this is a major, major  
7 development that we really need in this county, in this  
8 part of the county. Normally, when something of this  
9 nature comes up, it either goes to South County or  
10 St. Charles or out in the state or somewhere, or  
11 West County, and we usually get slighted for this.

12 But now I feel very strongly that we have a real  
13 great interest in the -- in this area, in this  
14 particular area. It's going to develop many, many jobs  
15 that are much, much needed in the area, construction  
16 jobs and permanent jobs after that.

17 We're also looking for the revenue that's going  
18 to help the school districts and the fire departments.  
19 There's no need in me harping on that because we've  
20 already gone through that. But definitely -- it's  
21 definitely what we need in North County. This is what  
22 we need to interject some energy into North County.

23 In North County, we have lost -- what have we  
24 lost -- well, anyway, we've lost major developments up  
25 in North County by -- like Ford, we lost over 2,000 --

00030

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can't hear your  
2 comments.

3 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Yeah, I know. The  
4 mic went out.

5 MR. KRANK: We lost about 2 -- 3,000 jobs  
6 in Ford. But this would not replace those jobs, but  
7 it's a step in the right direction to get us going.

8 We're back on again.

9 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you, Angie.

10 MS. FRANKS: Yeah.

11 MR. KRANK: This will put us back in the  
12 right direction.

13 So I would like to submit to you guys to really,  
14 really look at seeing that North County is issued a  
15 license to go ahead with this project, the casino.  
16 It's very much needed economically. It's the boost  
17 that we need in North County to kind of jumpstart the  
18 County and get us on our way. Thank you very much.

19 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you, Don.

20 Thank you for being here, sir.

21 Tim Jones? Tim?

22 MR. JONES: Good morning, Commissioners.

23 My name is Tim Jones. I didn't know if you guys needed  
24 help on that spelling. It's pretty basic.

25 I was born and raised in North County, guys.

00031

1 I've known that property pretty well, like the back of  
2 my hand. I have worked on the property. I am a  
3 laid-off operating engineer. I've been laid off close  
4 to a year now, which I think that's not new news to you  
5 guys. A lot of our building and trades unions are all  
6 sitting home right now. I am the father of five kids.

7 But I've worked on that property two or three  
8 times now throughout the years as a material dump. I'd  
9 like to see it cleaned up. I'd like to see it go to  
10 some good jobs.

11 Thanks.

12 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you, Tim.

13 We're right on the time. I'm keeping the time,  
14 Loudon, and we didn't start until about seven minutes  
15 after by my watch, just so you know.

16 That concludes the proponent side. Thank you  
17 all very, very much for being here, all of you that  
18 spoke and those of you who just showed up because of  
19 you were interested in this project.

20 So do any of the commissioners have anything to  
21 say, ask questions or anything before we start with the  
22 opponent side?

23 We're good to go? Okay.

24 We are now on the opponent side for your 31  
25 minutes, Loudon.

00032

1 First person on the list is John Loudon, former  
2 senator. John, come forward, sir.

3 MR. LOUDON: All right.

4 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the  
5 Commission. John Loudon, L-o-u-d-o-n.

6 Looking at the top of your guidelines, the first  
7 couple points you have is local support and  
8 availability and suitability of the docking site.  
9 Those are the top two agenda items. The other side  
10 clearly went after that. They cited the congressman,  
11 but they also cited the mayor, who does not -- Lowery,  
12 who does not represent the area, and you have heard  
13 from a county councilman, who is also wearing a labor  
14 union hat, who clearly has that interest.

15 I would submit to you, we -- you have a letter  
16 from County Executive Dooley, who has the general  
17 interest of the region, and he is in opposition. We  
18 also have the County Council chairman -- chairwoman,  
19 Barbara O'Mara, here today. She's --

20 MS. FRASER: Fraser. Barbara Fraser.

21 MR. LOUDON: Barbara Fraser -- excuse me  
22 -- who is also in opposition.

23 MS. FRASER: Mike, I didn't know.

24 MR. LOUDON: But perhaps more importantly,  
25 we have polling data that both have seen that says

00033

1 58 percent of county residents do not want this, nobody  
2 wants a new casino in this area, except a handful of  
3 narrow interests.

4 Now, the other thing that -- you also have the  
5 postcards, e-mails, the letters. Now, if you were  
6 going to -- you also heard some arguments from people  
7 who said, "Well, it's just a floodplain. You're going  
8 to get permits."

9 Your second agenda item is availability and  
10 suitability of the docking site. I would implore you  
11 to see this area, both areas, before you build on  
12 either, because we're going to talk a little bit about  
13 the other one, as well.

14 You drive up Riverview Parkway and you see park  
15 land along the riverfront and they want to plop the  
16 casino on the ugliest parcel there owned by the current  
17 landowner. But for their neglect of that land, that is  
18 the ugliest part as you drive up.

19 Now, you drive up Riverview and you will see the  
20 most beautiful, pristine farmland. You see the side --  
21 I drove that last night, watched the moon and a clear  
22 sky over this land. You don't see land vistas like  
23 that in this area.

24 This area is meant for our kids. We are  
25 stewards of this. You will hear from conservation --

00034

1 from a conservation commissioner. You will hear -- we  
2 have Herb Logan here, who might be -- if you would  
3 indulge, he's a late add -- Herb was on the ground for  
4 the Conservation Department in the flood of '93. He  
5 was there when Farmer Becherer, Tom Becherer, who is  
6 also here, who lives and owns the adjacent property,  
7 will tell you that land was 40 feet under water where  
8 they want to put this thing.

9           The ground is not suitable, the people don't  
10 want it. And Lily's got something for you here so you  
11 can take a look, since you don't have a chance to see  
12 it yet, there's a little whet your appetite.

13           Could Lily say something real quick?

14           CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: You bet. Hi, Lily.

15           LILY: Hi.

16           CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: State your name  
17 there, sweet lady, please?

18           LILY: Lily, spelled L-i-l-y.

19           I just wanted to say that once this pretty land  
20 is gone, it's gone for kids like me forever.

21           CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: I'm sure glad -- hey,  
22 hey, please.

23           I'm sure glad you look like your mother, honey.  
24 You're a pretty lady.

25           Okay. I'm going to fight with this name. John

00035

1 Gianoulakis.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Gianoulakis.

3 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: John Gianoulakis.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. GIANOULAKIS: My name is John  
6 Gianoulakis. I'll spell it. I hope you give me some  
7 extra time for having to spell it. It's  
8 G-i-a-n-o-u-l-a-k-i-s.

9 I'm a practicing lawyer, have been for 47 years,  
10 but I'm here as a board member and secretary of the  
11 Spanish Lake Community Association and the Save the  
12 Confluence Coalition that is opposing this, urging you  
13 not to award a license to North County Development,  
14 LLC, for the location in Spanish Lake below the  
15 confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers.

16 The St. Louis area does not need a seventh  
17 casino. The St. Louis market is already over-  
18 saturated, or at least saturated. The evidence on that  
19 is incontrovertible. We've seen that the new River  
20 City Casino is cannibalizing revenue from the other  
21 five remaining casinos, all of which had lower revenues  
22 in the period from June to August, 2010. The highest  
23 percentage loss of revenue was 23.7 percent at Lumiere  
24 in downtown St. Louis in July of 2010.

25 All five existing casinos in the St. Louis area

00036

1 lost revenue in every month from June through August,  
2 2010, after the River City Casino opened.

3           Even more significantly, with the novelty of the  
4 new River City Casino wearing off, the small increase  
5 in total revenue in the St. Louis market has gone from  
6 an increase of 4.3 percent in June to 3.8 percent in  
7 July to only a 1.5 percent increase in August, and is  
8 rapidly approaching a zero increase or a negative  
9 figure showing a decrease in total gambling revenue.

10           Consistent with that, a recent news report using  
11 statewide data, not limited to the St. Louis market,  
12 showed the projections of a \$100 million in additional  
13 revenue relating to the passage of Proposition A turned  
14 out to be \$20 million, or 80 percent off the projected  
15 revenues.

16           We hope you'll use a healthy amount of  
17 skepticism when a certain applicant in the city is  
18 projecting that roughly two thirds, or \$80 million of  
19 projected \$120 million annual revenue stream, will be  
20 new revenue. We think that it is totally unrealistic  
21 for them to project that there is \$40 million in new  
22 gaming -- gambling revenue from North County residents  
23 and another 40 million in new gambling revenue in North  
24 -- from Illinois. That is just totally unrealistic.  
25 The people coming from Illinois are interstate

00037

1 truckers, interstate travelers, people with  
2 destinations, jobs in St. Louis that have nothing to do  
3 with a new casino.

4           A further reason for skepticism is the  
5 September 13, 2010 John McGowan report, which we have  
6 already provided to the Commission. And it shows the  
7 numerous falls in the so-called input/output  
8 methodology used by a number of researchers, including  
9 the Leven-Phares Report. That's P-h-a-r-e-s. Leven is  
10 L-e-v-e-n.

11           Finally, not only is River City Casino down  
12 slightly in revenue from 14.9 million in July to  
13 14.8 million in August, but we also understand that  
14 River City is now laying off employees. Speaking for  
15 myself, no license should be awarded to any St. Louis  
16 applicant.

17           Your web site indicates part of your task is to  
18 make sure that criminal elements are not involved. Two  
19 fathers of three of the owners of North County  
20 Development, LLC, either are or were in the federal  
21 penitentiary on drug charges and tax evasion charges.

22           Please do not approve a casino for the North  
23 County Development Group in Spanish Lake. It's the  
24 wrong place. I agree with Councilman O'Mara on  
25 everything, including a regional hub, everything except

00038

1 the casino, because it's the wrong place and the wrong  
2 time for it.

3 In a former life, I was a member of the  
4 University City School Board. We didn't get anything,  
5 as Mark Behlmann said, but I know you're doing this as  
6 a matter of public service, all of you, Senator  
7 Mathewson, all the other Commission members, and we  
8 thank you very much for being here and listening to us.

9 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you, sir, very  
10 much.

11 MR. GIANOULAKIS: And I have copies of my  
12 comments for you.

13 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you.

14 Mr. Stremming, I wonder -- let me -- if I may,  
15 sir, let me call Paul Schroeder up, who missed a while  
16 ago and then I'll come to you.

17 Okay. Mr. Schroeder, would you like to come  
18 forward, sir, please?

19 MR. SCHROEDER: My point is, is to look at  
20 a place called Chicago.

21 Oh. It's Schroeder. I'm sorry. Paul  
22 Schroeder, S-c-h-r-o-e-d-e-r.

23 What I wanted to say was when you look at  
24 Chicago, somebody sometime made the decision to leave  
25 the waterfront of the lake for miles and miles free as

00039

1 park land. And that is now a huge attraction to the  
2 city of Chicago. And I would hope that we would be as  
3 forward-looking as they were.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you, sir.

6 Thank you for being here.

7 Mr. Stremming, please, sir.

8 MR. STREMMING: Good morning, Chairman  
9 Mathewson, Commissioners. My name is Troy Stremming,  
10 S-t-r-e-m-m-i-n-g. I'm senior vice president of  
11 government relations and public affairs for Ameristar  
12 Casinos. I'm here this morning to express Ameristar's  
13 opposition to the re-issuance of the thirteenth gaming  
14 license in North St. Louis County.

15 The impact -- many might think this is for  
16 competitive reasons, but I will just tell you that we  
17 welcome competition. We have one of the largest  
18 operations right across the river from us in Harrah's,  
19 and competing has never been a problem for Ameristar.  
20 Saturation in a gaming market is a problem for all the  
21 operators.

22 The impact to existing Missouri casinos by  
23 placing this license in North St. Louis County will be  
24 a great detriment to the existing casinos in this state  
25 and in the form of additional revenues, will be very

00040

1 marginal to the state.

2           Ameristar has updated the economic impact  
3 analysis we provided the Commission in May of this year  
4 with the scope and design of the project that's been  
5 proposed in North St. Louis County. We've also updated  
6 that impact statement with the revenues for the last  
7 six months. The analysis still finds that  
8 Cape Girardeau is the best location for the thirteenth  
9 gaming license, due to the amount of incremental  
10 revenue that it will bring to education and to the  
11 State of Missouri.

12           Our analysis specifically estimates that  
13 approximately 66 percent of the North St. Louis County  
14 casino's revenue will come from existing Missouri  
15 casinos, while virtually none of the revenue that will  
16 be created by Cape Girardeau will come from existing  
17 casinos in the state of Missouri.

18           More specific, while the Cape Girardeau casino  
19 will generate lower annual AGR than the North St. Louis  
20 County's proposal, that's \$88 million pursuant to our  
21 analysis, compared to \$153 million. It will generally  
22 generate substantially more net tax revenue for the  
23 State of Missouri, \$24 million annually in Cape  
24 Girardeau compared to 14 million here in North  
25 St. Louis County.

00041

1 I have updated copies for the Commission that I  
2 would like to present to you and then I would answer  
3 any questions you might have.

4 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Any questions of  
5 Mr. Stremming?

6 Thank you, sir.

7 MR. STREMMING: Thank you.

8 Cynthia Metcalfe? Good morning, lady.

9 MS. METCALFE: Thank you, Chairman  
10 Mathewson and Commissioners, for coming here today to  
11 listen. I know you're here --

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Can't hear you.  
13 Can't hear.

14 MS. METCALFE: I'm sorry. Is this better?

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: No.

16 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: I think it's out. I  
17 believe it was Troy Stremming that tripped right over  
18 that.

19 MS. METCALFE: Hello. Now can you hear --

20 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Now. Here we go.

21 You okay in the back on that? Can you hear? Okay.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Yes.

23 MS. METCALFE: My name is Cynthia  
24 Metcalfe, from St. Louis County. I know you're here  
25 today --

00042

1                   CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Spell your last name.

2                   MS. METCALFE: Oh, I'm sorry.

3 M-e-t-c-a-l-f, as in Frank -- e.

4                   I know you're here today to learn more so you  
5 can make the most responsible decision for the citizens  
6 of the state of Missouri. And I'm here today to speak  
7 from the perspective of another arm of state  
8 government, which has already made a decision very much  
9 impacted by your decision -- which will be very much  
10 impacted.

11                  I served on the State Conservation Commission  
12 from 2001 to 2007 during the period when the Columbia  
13 Bottom Conservation Area was developed. The Department  
14 of Conservation spent \$9.3 million to buy the acreage  
15 at Columbia Bottom. It's 4.3 million -- 4.3 thousand  
16 -- excuse me -- 4,300 acres, and 6 miles -- 6 1/2 miles  
17 of river frontage at the confluence on the Mississippi  
18 and Missouri. They did that in 1997. And since that  
19 time -- it was a huge purchase, the biggest in the  
20 history of the Department with its own money in the  
21 state of Missouri. A very big deal.

22                  And since that time, a lot more has been spent  
23 on development, at least 25 million by now on the whole  
24 package, including not only tax money from Missouri  
25 citizens, but money solicited from the State, the

00043

1 federal government, local government, private  
2 businesses, foundations and individuals has gone to  
3 make Columbia Bottom worthy of its location at the  
4 confluence, a true national treasure, something that  
5 can never be replaced, something that will only grow  
6 more valuable as the years go on, that has now 200,000  
7 visitors a year, gaining constantly, has programs for  
8 children, 4,000 a year. Also, much potential for  
9 growth.

10           The Army Corps spent 11 million to build the  
11 wetlands, which is the major feature of Columbia Bottom  
12 and which has a preserve on the southern part of the  
13 property, which is right upstream from the proposed  
14 casino.

15           That wetland has only been operative -- it was  
16 very, very difficult to build. That's how hard it is  
17 to take land that has been degraded and to -- to  
18 restore it to nature. That was just really completed  
19 and fully operable this year.

20           So immediately downstream from this and adjacent  
21 to the preserve section, where the waterfowl and other  
22 birds seek refuge, is the proposed casino, on raised  
23 land, 8,000 cars of parking, bright lights, noise,  
24 multi buildings, not just in a backwater of the  
25 floodplain, but right smack in the flood way and right

00044

1 downstream from the wetlands at Columbia Bottom.

2           The destructive effect and the squandering of  
3 the State money and credibility that's already been put  
4 on the line is beyond anything -- potentially beyond  
5 anything that anyone involved in this commitment and  
6 effort can imagine could ever be even contemplated,  
7 even considered, for this wonderful and valuable  
8 location.

9           Bird watching, wildlife photography, fishing,  
10 hiking, biking -- okay. Come on down.

11                   CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Cindy, thank you.

12                   MS. METCALFE: Uh-huh.

13                   CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Nice to see you  
14 again. Thanks for your service on the Commission for a  
15 long time there. Thank you.

16           Help me out.

17                   MR. BECHERER: Becherer.

18                   CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Becherer? Tom  
19 Becherer, please. Morning, Tom.

20                   MR. BECHERER: Morning. My name is  
21 Tom Becherer. It's B-e-c-h-e-r-e-r. Threw you a  
22 little curve there.

23           My family has owned the farmland adjoining the  
24 proposed development for four generations. Our  
25 property would probably increase in value with this

00045

1 development. I am not for or against gambling. I am  
2 for progress. I am for labor. I am for the increase  
3 in the development of Spanish Lake. Just not here.

4 This is a bad location for this proposed  
5 development. This area floods regularly. That is why  
6 it is called a floodplain. We are not talking a little  
7 bit of backwater, as was said. We are talking 20 to 30  
8 feet of main channel current.

9 The law says that the casino must be 1,000 feet  
10 from the midpoint of the river. In years when this  
11 area floods, the casino would be the midpoint of the  
12 river.

13 To pick virgin farmland because it is cheap to  
14 purchase compared to other types of property is not a  
15 good enough reason. Other sites in this area include  
16 retired quarries, landfills and industrial sites and  
17 under-performing shopping malls.

18 When voters approved riverboat gambling, they  
19 did not approve screwing up our river bottoms and our  
20 wetlands. Ask voters if they would rather have  
21 gambling more than 1,000 feet from the midpoint of the  
22 river instead of close to one of our greatest natural  
23 resources, water, I think you will get a unanimous yes.

24 Sure, developing these areas is more expensive.  
25 Tough. So is repairing an entire ecosystem. Just look

00046

1 how hard it is to make a bird. Our grandchildren will  
2 need this land to grow food and as a source of  
3 groundwater.

4 This location promises immeasurable construction  
5 difficulties involving flooding and access to the  
6 highway. The nearest road is almost two miles from the  
7 proposed main building. The road itself would run  
8 perpendicular with the river channel and would have to  
9 be 20 feet high.

10 We have the greatest workforce in the country in  
11 North County. Could it be done? Sure. Should it be  
12 done? No.

13 The environmental impact on this fragile area  
14 could be catastrophic. The Missouri Department of  
15 Conservation has made a 4,300-acre investment in this  
16 area just 500 feet from the proposed main location.  
17 How does the casino development fit this land use?  
18 Have we not scarred our landscape enough? Did we not  
19 learn from our mistakes?

20 This location promises to be a long, drawn-out  
21 process, both physically and legally, to get started,  
22 easily three to five years in environmental issues. We  
23 will someday be judged by our grandchildren. We want  
24 them to know we did our best to leave them a better  
25 place. Please accept my invitation to see this

00047

1 wetlands and this farmlands for yourself. Bring your  
2 children, bring your grandchildren, and then ask  
3 yourself, would you rather they would see -- what they  
4 would rather see in their future, a casino built in a  
5 few years by man or a landscape built over a millennium  
6 by God?

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you, sir.

9 Hey, please, please.

10 Michael -- I'm sorry.

11 Okay. I was just informed that the hotel passed  
12 out incorrect parking passes. So we -- and John, I'm  
13 not going -- I'm going to count this time. Okay?

14 MR. LOUDON: Okay.

15 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Make sure you get a  
16 valid parking pass on your way out the door. Okay?  
17 Evidently, they had some ones that won't work.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I've got myself and  
19 another person at the other end. So you just see one  
20 of us and we'll get you a valid parking pass to get you  
21 out. Sorry for the inconvenience.

22 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Okay. Thank you,  
23 sir.

24 Okay. Very good. Mike, proceed, sir, please,  
25 with your name first, please.

00048

1                   MR. SPURGEON: Sure. Good morning,  
2 Commissioners. I have a brief statement. My name is  
3 Michael Spurgeon. Las name is spelled S-p-u-r-g-e-o-n.  
4 I serve as the director of administration for the City  
5 of St. Charles, and I am here today on behalf of  
6 Mayor Patti York and the St. Charles City Council.

7                   Obviously, the City has a vested interest in  
8 any decision that is made by the Commission. I'm here  
9 today on behalf of the city officials of our community  
10 to express our opposition to the placement of another  
11 casino in the St. Louis market. In short, we believe  
12 that another casino in the St. Louis market will have a  
13 very serious negative impact on our city and other  
14 communities in the St. Louis area that have gaming  
15 facilities and receive revenue from those to help pay  
16 for critical services to their citizens.

17                   Based on the downturn in the economy, as we've  
18 heard here today, coupled with the two casinos that  
19 were recently opened, the Ameristar Casino has had a  
20 downturn in the revenues that they've received, which  
21 in turn, means that the City has received less revenue  
22 over that same period. The City obviously is very  
23 dependent upon the revenues that we receive from the  
24 Ameristar Casino, just as we are for the property tax,  
25 sales tax and utility revenues. As a result -- as a

00049

1 result of receiving less revenue, our services that we  
2 provide our citizens have been dramatically impacted.

3         We've had a casino for many years now, and  
4 obviously, we've absorbed the revenues that were  
5 received to pay for recurring expenses, along with  
6 infrastructure -- mainly infrastructure. And as you  
7 gentlemen know from your services, you're talking about  
8 roads, stormwater management, streets, sidewalks,  
9 et cetera.

10         The City has become heavily dependent upon these  
11 casino revenues, as I mentioned earlier, just as we  
12 have sales tax, property tax and utility taxes. And  
13 all those revenues in every community in this country  
14 are down right now because of the economy. An  
15 additional competitor in the already saturated  
16 St. Louis market will only erode the City's revenues  
17 even further.

18         At this particular time, the city officials for  
19 the City of St. Charles believe that this decision is  
20 not right for our city and the St. Louis region. And  
21 as a result, we would ask the Commission to take our  
22 request and the requests of those other individuals and  
23 entities who are opponents of this license into  
24 consideration when you make your decision.

25         Thank you.

00050

1                   CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you, sir.

2                   Richard Sparks.

3                   MR. SPARKS: Good morning, Commissioners.

4 My name is Richard Sparks, S-p-a-r-k-s, and I'm  
5 director of research at the new National Great Rivers  
6 Research and Education Center, located across the river  
7 in Alton, just a few miles up from the Spanish Lake  
8 site.

9                   I've walked the proposed site, which is used now  
10 predominantly for agriculture, which also had standing  
11 water most of this summer. I observed plants and  
12 animals such as burrowing crayfish, which characterize  
13 wetlands. I observed migratory shore birds feeding at  
14 the site.

15                   In the upper Midwest, approximately 90 percent  
16 of our wetlands have been drained. In response to this  
17 loss of wetlands and the valuable services they  
18 provide, our government has established a no net loss  
19 policy in the present and in the future. That's our  
20 federal government. In fact, in some places, wetlands  
21 are actually being restored. Up on the Illinois River,  
22 former levy districts have been purchased from willing  
23 sellers and restoration is now underway by the U.S.  
24 Fish and Wildlife Service, the Illinois Department of  
25 Natural Resources and two non-governmental conservation

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1 organizations, the Nature Conservancy and the Wetlands  
2 Initiative.

3 Our own study of the economic impacts of one of  
4 the major concerns it cites indicated that there would  
5 be a net increase in jobs and a \$2-million-a-year  
6 increase in output value to the local community from  
7 the conversion of the agricultural to a refuge with  
8 recreation, including tourism.

9 My major point is that we need the services  
10 provided by the few remaining wetlands that are allowed  
11 to flood. Filling in these areas and constructing  
12 commercial enterprises forecloses future options,  
13 including agriculture and wetlands restoration.

14 I would also add that we in Illinois are very  
15 concerned by what happens on the floodplains over here  
16 in this area. And you also are concerned about what we  
17 do on the other side that will tend to raise flood  
18 press in the future.

19 I'd also like to make the point that FEMA is re-  
20 mapping the floodplains. This project goes on through  
21 the year 2014. So there will be new maps, and  
22 generally, it's been in the direction of requiring  
23 increased insurance or increased flood protection. In  
24 other words, we're in a period now where major floods  
25 are occurring more frequently and we urgently need

00052

1 these areas to absorb the floodwaters.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you, sir.

4 Next is Dora -- I still don't have the name down  
5 real good.

6 MS. GIANOULAKIS: Gianoulakis.

7 Gianoulakis.

8 My name is Dora Gianoulakis, and I think you've  
9 got the spelling.

10 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Yeah. Thank you.

11 MS. GIANOULAKIS: I'd like to respond  
12 first to three comments that were made in the previous  
13 section -- area. Somebody spoke about how this  
14 property had been zoned industrial previously. That is  
15 because the County, in its great wisdom in the 1960s,  
16 zoned everything industrial along every railroad and  
17 every river in St. Louis County. It's never been used  
18 industrially.

19 Second, you had a statement regarding Forbes  
20 magazine. That was not in Forbes Magazine. That was  
21 in an article on a Forbes Internet site. It was so  
22 inaccurate that it called Spanish Lake a city. Spanish  
23 Lake is not a city. We are unincorporated. It had a  
24 lot of inaccuracies and it should not be listened to.

25 Third, you heard from the firefighters. He did

00053

1 neglect to mention that Lemay, where the new casino has  
2 been placed, has had huge problems because the  
3 firefighters have been called to the casino so much and  
4 they are running out of money.

5         Now, our association did just support the tax  
6 increase that the firefighters requested in Spanish  
7 Lake, a 25-cent tax increase, which perhaps ought to be  
8 enough. I don't think they need any more revenue from  
9 the casino.

10         I am president of the Spanish Lake Community  
11 Association and I would like to now begin my remarks.

12         We understand that one of the factors the Gaming  
13 Commission considers in awarding a casino license is  
14 whether or not the community wants it. In fact, we  
15 understand that you have decided you will not award a  
16 casino license to Cape Girardeau if that referendum in  
17 November passes, even though it's not a binding  
18 referendum.

19         I am here this morning to say two things to you:  
20 One, our community of Spanish Lake does not want a  
21 casino along the Mississippi River in Spanish Lake at  
22 that site; and two, and the metropolitan area does not  
23 want this casino, either.

24         In July of '09, the Spanish Lake Community  
25 Association board voted unanimously to oppose this

00054

1 development. We based our decision on the land use and  
2 development recommendations in the comprehensive plan  
3 for Spanish Lake that the County had adopted after a  
4 study in which hundreds of residents participated.  
5 This intense development along the Mississippi River  
6 immediately adjacent to Columbia Bottom Conservation  
7 Area, is totally inconsistent with that plan.

8 In August of '09, we presented petitions to the  
9 County Planning Commission with over 1,400 signatures  
10 opposing. November of last year, we presented  
11 petitions again with over 2,200 signatures opposing.  
12 It was quite clear from the remarks we heard while  
13 collecting those signatures that our community does not  
14 want it.

15 There were two statements made most often. The  
16 first was, "We don't need another casino."

17 And the second was, "Not there. That's just the  
18 wrong place."

19 In April, UM-Morris conducted a probability  
20 survey of registered voters in North St. Louis County,  
21 for the County Economic Council to determine: "Voter  
22 attitude about a proposal for a casino complex in North  
23 St. Louis County, the survey found that 58 percent of  
24 the respondents opposed the project."

25 Also --

00055

1                   CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON:  Ma'am, ma'am, I'm  
2  sorry.  Would you wrap up, please?

3                   MS. GIANOULAKIS:  I am.  I also -- I'm  
4  trying to represent our community.

5                   CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON:  I understand.

6                   MS. GIANOULAKIS:  Okay.

7                   "Also of great interest is that 52 percent of  
8  all labor households and 52 percent of residents in the  
9  Hazelwood School District oppose it."

10                  Before I close, I'd like to present an  
11  additional 1,000 postcards in opposition to this casino  
12  location from some of the folks who couldn't be here  
13  today, for you to add to the thousands that have  
14  already been mailed.  And I would like to ask everyone  
15  who is here opposing the casino today to please stand.

16                  Thank you very much for your time.

17                  CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON:  No, we're not going  
18  to do that.  Folks, we all agreed.  We're all about  
19  trying to love one another, don't you know.

20                  Okay.  We have -- we have run out of time.

21                  And again, on behalf of the Commission and the  
22  staff, you know, we're making an effort to be here.  
23  You all conducted yourself very, very well and we thank  
24  you very, very much for that.  It's very informative  
25  information.

00056

1           Now, let me just close by telling you this:  
2 There's nothing in the law that we can find that would  
3 say there has to be a thirteenth license. Now, I don't  
4 want to pause for that. I just want to state it to  
5 you. That is one of the options that this Commission  
6 has, that we do nothing, we wait a while to see what's  
7 going to happen. That's why we're out here listening  
8 to you. We were in Cape yesterday. We heard you now.  
9 We're going to hear the next group for St. Louis City  
10 application in a few minutes. Then we're going to  
11 Kansas City and we're going to hear Sugar Creek's  
12 application.

13           And then we start the process, which has already  
14 been going on for two months, of developing a plan so  
15 we can then make a decision of what's going to happen.  
16 Okay?

17           So again, thank you for taking your time --

18                   UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I want to know how  
19 many of you have been to the Columbia Bottom  
20 Conservation Area.

21                   CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: We are finished with  
22 this presentation.

23                   UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Have you been to  
24 the Columbia Bottom Conservation Area? Please raise  
25 your hand.

00057

1                   CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: You are not involved.

2                   UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I was signed up.

3 Just raise your hand if you've been there. If you  
4 haven't been there --

5                   CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you, sir.

6                   (Thereupon, a brief recess was taken.)

7                   CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: We will start now  
8 with the hearing on the St. Louis City. And the first  
9 person on -- I'm going to accept -- okay. Good point.

10                  The ground rules that we had in the last meeting  
11 -- if you weren't here -- and I look around and see  
12 some of you were, but is that --

13                  Well, first of all, let me introduce to those of  
14 you that don't know, who we are. Okay. I'm Jim  
15 Mathewson. I'm from Sedalia, Missouri. I had the  
16 honor of being in the Legislature in Missouri for 30  
17 years. I'm a small business person in Sedalia.

18                  And down to my far right, your left, is Barrett  
19 Hatches. Barrett is an executive with utility  
20 companies in North Kansas City.

21                  Next to him is Noel Shull. Noel is a retired --  
22 I always like to say retired because I'm older than he  
23 is -- but he is a retired banking executive from the  
24 Kansas City metropolitan area.

25                  Jack Barrett, on the end, is a retired Highway

00058

1 Patrol, and at his choice, two-term sheriff of Greene  
2 County, Springfield.

3 Next to me is our local -- our local effort  
4 right here, Darryl Jones. Commissioner Jones is a  
5 concessionaire at Lambert Airport.

6 So that's who we are.

7 We're going to hold this meeting. We'll put the  
8 clock on it, like we did the last meeting. The  
9 proponents will have thirty minutes, if they need that,  
10 but we don't want to get folks that are speaking just  
11 because they have minutes. Okay. Try to hold your  
12 comments down to like three minutes, please, because  
13 we're going to leave here as soon as this meeting is  
14 over and load up in the cars and head to Kansas City to  
15 do another meeting. And as I pointed out before, we  
16 are driving, not flying, so, you know, no taxpayers'  
17 expense.

18 So we're going to hold the meeting to one hour.  
19 And we will give thirty minutes to each side or if  
20 there's time left over from either side, we'll try to  
21 pick it up.

22 So with that, Commissioners -- oh, everything is  
23 being recorded, so when you come up to testify, I'll  
24 call your name, but then please state your name and  
25 spell it so that we can pick it up correctly. All of

00059

1 this will be transcribed and will be available if  
2 anybody wants it, if you just contact the Commission in  
3 Jeff City, why we'll be glad to provide that to you.

4 Okay?

5 Anything else I'm missing? We're good to go,  
6 boss?

7 Okay. I have, out of courtesy, he's not -- he  
8 informed me he's not necessarily a proponent or an  
9 opponent, but he wants to speak. And out of respect to  
10 him, he can do that anytime he wants to in a meeting  
11 that I'm involved in, and he is Senator Tim Green.

12 Tim, please.

13 SENATOR GREEN: First off, I feel deja vu  
14 is happening right now. I do want to make the chairman  
15 aware of the fact his hometown does have the State  
16 Fair, and I respectively wore my cowboy boots today for  
17 this presentation.

18 MR. JONES: Are they clean?

19 SENATOR GREEN: Yes, they are clean.

20 My name is Senator Timothy Green and I represent  
21 170,000 citizens in North St. Louis County. I'm not  
22 here to either support or oppose the Koman Casino  
23 Celebration proposal.

24 The casino is located in the city of St. Louis.  
25 I urge you not to choose this proposal, unless the City

00060

1 of St. Louis and St. Louis County come to some type of  
2 revenue-sharing agreement. Under current law, home  
3 dock jurisdiction receives a 10 percent of the gaming  
4 tax receipts and 50 percent of the admission fee. This  
5 admission fee is a \$2 surcharge per patron.

6 Current revenue as of August 2010 of the  
7 10 percent share of this year is the following:  
8 Lumiere Place generated roughly \$29 million in gross  
9 tax receipts, which was for the City of St. Louis  
10 2.9 million.

11 River City was roughly 29 million, which brought  
12 in 2.9 million for St. Louis County.

13 Harrah's in Maryland Heights was 47 million in  
14 tax receipts, 4.7 million for Maryland Heights.

15 Ameristar, St. Charles, was roughly 48 million,  
16 which brought in for the City of St. Charles 4.8  
17 million.

18 The statute covering home dock city tax states:  
19 Home dock city or county shall receive 10 percent of  
20 the adjusted gross tax receipt collections for the use  
21 and providing services necessary for the safety of the  
22 public visiting and excursion gambling boat.

23 Due to the fact that this location -- and I  
24 would like to emphasize is totally surrounded by  
25 unincorporated St. Louis County, the County will be

00061

1 sharing in responsibilities of public safety, as well  
2 as the local fire districts.

3 St. Louis County is located roughly 100 yards  
4 west of the Mississippi River. To quickly give you a  
5 history, this long stretch of City property is in the  
6 City of St. Louis because that's where the City's  
7 waterworks are located. About 100 yards west begins  
8 St. Louis County. This property is totally surrounded  
9 by unincorporated St. Louis County.

10 I see Great Rivers Greenway District reached an  
11 agreement with Casino Celebration developer for  
12 financial support in protecting and making upgrades to  
13 the area. The Greenway District currently has some  
14 financial security with their own regional sales tax  
15 and with the proposed casino. The City will receive  
16 their revenue from the home dock city. The only one  
17 left out of the equation are the citizens in the  
18 communities surrounding the location in unincorporated  
19 St. Louis County.

20 I urge the Commission to oppose this project,  
21 unless the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County come  
22 to some type of agreement in the share of those  
23 revenues.

24 In closing, I would just like to add I find it  
25 sad to see all these proposals in front of you for the

00062

1 one available license due to the closing of the  
2 President Casino. Once again, the casinos won with  
3 their argument to the voters that at the repeal of the  
4 loss limit and limit of the licenses, education would  
5 receive a new 140 million in revenue. Two years later,  
6 we still have not seen this new 140 million in  
7 increased education dollars. All that has happened is  
8 the current votes have a monopoly on the licenses and  
9 took away the Gaming Commission's ability to decide who  
10 should get a license.

11 In closing, as a legislator, I do want to add  
12 all gaming money goes to education. It's just not as  
13 much as the industry told the voters it would be.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you, Tim.

16 Any commissioners have a question of the  
17 senator?

18 Thanks, Tim. Thanks for being here, sir. Good  
19 to see you.

20 Susan Trautman?

21 MS. TRAUTMAN: My name is Susan Trautman,  
22 T-r-a-u-t-m-a-n. I serve as executive director for the  
23 Great Rivers Greenway District.

24 Great Rivers Greenway is an Overland Park  
25 District for St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and

00063

1 St. Charles County. We work in partnership with many,  
2 many public and private agencies to deliver a system of  
3 greenways and trails that will enhance the quality of  
4 life in our region. I came this morning in support of  
5 the cooperation agreement between Great Rivers Greenway  
6 and Casino Celebration.

7           Great Rivers Greenway has an -- has had an  
8 interest in the property located at the Chain of Rocks  
9 Bridge for many years. Our agreement with Casino  
10 Celebration is based on providing the best possible  
11 outcome for the public benefit. In exchange for  
12 property that Great Rivers Greenway owns along  
13 Riverview Drive for property Casino Celebration owns  
14 along the Mississippi River, Casino Celebration has  
15 agreed to a long list of public amenities and to  
16 provide and to ensure public use and access to the  
17 Chain of Rocks Bridge and access and trailhead  
18 amenities on the Missouri and the Illinois side, as  
19 well as providing the security and safety of the  
20 public.

21           At this time, there is no agency able to provide  
22 any of these benefits. Should this Commission choose  
23 not to issue a license to Casino Celebration, this very  
24 same agreement provides that Great Rivers Greenway can  
25 and will purchase the property for public use.

00064

1 I appreciate your time this morning. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you very much.

3 Any questions?

4 Thank you, ma'am.

5 Claude Brown. Good morning, Claude.

6 MR. BROWN: Good morning.

7 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Come forward, sir.

8 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My

9 name is Claude Brown. C-l-a-u-d-e. B-r-o-w-n.

10 Before I speak, I need to issue sort of caveat.

11 First of all, I wear several titles. One is that I'm

12 Second Ward committeeman, and I'm not speaking as the

13 Second Ward committeeman this morning. Secondly, I'm

14 president of the St. Louis branch of the NAACP. And

15 I'm not speaking on behalf of the NAACP, either. I'm

16 speaking as a 35-year resident of the Second Ward.

17 I conducted a seminar last night at Washington

18 University and the seminar was entitled, The At-Risk

19 Middle Class in the City of St. Louis. And it struck

20 me that for the first time, coming to North St. Louis,

21 coming to the Second Ward even, is one of the best

22 developments that we've had. I recognize all of the

23 cautions that we have about the environment. I

24 recognize all the cautions, all of the moral issues

25 that are involved, but I speak only because of the jobs

00065

1 that would be involved for the first time in the  
2 city -- in North St. Louis City.

3         The proposed 130-million Casino Celebration  
4 gaming facility in North St. Louis just south of  
5 Interstate 270, at the landing of Chain of Rocks Bridge  
6 would be a welcomed economic shot in the arm for the  
7 St. Louis area for a number of reasons. In addition to  
8 the initial investment, which includes an eco-friendly  
9 gaming facility, substantial upgrades to the Chain of  
10 Rocks Bridge, local bike trails, hiking trails and  
11 footprints, the project is expected to generate nearly  
12 11 million in annual tax revenues in the city. Given  
13 St. Louis' current high unemployment, perhaps the most  
14 exciting aspect of the proposal is the creation of  
15 jobs.

16         Casino Celebration has said that they will  
17 directly create more than 700 construction jobs and 625  
18 full-time jobs. The ripple effect of an economic  
19 engine will create an estimated 950 spin-off jobs.  
20 Casino Celebration is committed to hiring a locally-  
21 based workforce to ensure that the surrounding  
22 neighborhoods and residents benefit from the project.

23         In addition to direct jobs and potential spin-  
24 off of jobs created by revenues going through the  
25 project, local entrepreneurs will be given the

00066

1 opportunity to provide needed services for the  
2 facility. This could be a major lifeline for small  
3 businesses in the Second Ward.

4           According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor  
5 Statistics, the region's overall unemployment rate  
6 hovered at just over 10 percent for 2009. African-  
7 American unemployment stood at 18.4 percent overall,  
8 and a staggering 22.1 percent for African-Americans --  
9 African-American men in St. Louis.

10           Perhaps even more disconcerting is a prediction  
11 by economists that the situation will get worse before  
12 it gets better, particularly in North St. Louis and  
13 North St. Louis County. As was said last night at  
14 Washington U, we're looking at this decline to continue  
15 for at least the next five years.

16           The Casino Celebration was created by members of  
17 the Koman family and this is one of the reasons that I  
18 stand and support it. It's a St. Louis-based family  
19 with a long history of developing in the area with  
20 projects developed in this city, one of the few  
21 developers that has developed projects in North  
22 St. Louis.

23           The Koman family has a great track record of  
24 inclusion, and meeting or exceeding minority hiring  
25 goals with their Casino Queen project in East

00067

1 St. Louis. They developed the Martin Luther King Plaza  
2 at Grand Avenue and Martin Luther King Boulevard. They  
3 developed other projects in that area where no one else  
4 would develop projects.

5 Having a group that has demonstrated a track  
6 record, including minorities in construction projects  
7 and hiring minorities is a major positive for the  
8 African-American community in the North St. Louis area.  
9 In addition, a commitment by the development for  
10 minority hiring targets will be included in the  
11 development agreement with the City of St. Louis.

12 North St. Louis has been devoid of any large-  
13 scale economic development for decades. Given the  
14 Casino Celebration project, a green light means giving  
15 the City the keys to start the engine of economic  
16 recovery to a desperately needed area, particularly in  
17 the Second Ward.

18 The City of St. Louis was the home of the  
19 original gaming license and should stay in the city.  
20 Keeping it here provides a golden opportunity to  
21 recapture an increased revenue lost by the President's  
22 closure and create some energy with economic investment  
23 in the City's North side.

24 I end my testimony by again reiterating that I  
25 don't speak for the Second Ward. The Second Ward, on

00068

1 the committee, we have not made a decision. But  
2 personally, I feel obligated to speak on behalf of this  
3 project.

4 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you, sir.

6 Any questions?

7 Thank you, sir.

8 Some of you may note I did let him go over more  
9 than three minutes. But we only have four people on  
10 the proponent side.

11 MR. BROWN: I apologize.

12 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: No. I thought we'd  
13 extend that courtesy to him because there's only four  
14 on the proponent side. Okay. So thank you.

15 Rodney Crim? Rodney?

16 MR. CRIM: Good morning. How are you?

17 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Good, sir.

18 MR. CRIM: It's been a little while since  
19 I've been in front of this illustrious group. It is  
20 good to see everyone this morning.

21 I am here to speak in favor of Casino  
22 Celebration. I'll keep my remarks brief. But as we  
23 all know, the thirteenth license is the replacement for  
24 the President Casino license and that license should  
25 stay in the city. The jobs and the tax revenues should

00069

1 stay in the city.

2 Casino Celebration has provided a proposal that  
3 is best for the State and the City. And when we went  
4 through our RFP process, that was a key requirement,  
5 that it be a proposal that would compete and be the  
6 best for the State, as well as the City.

7 Casino Celebration has agreed to work with the  
8 community to address a number of issues that have been  
9 raised, like traffic and security, and Casino  
10 Celebration has been very forthcoming in saying that,  
11 "We'll do traffic studies, we will address all of these  
12 issues."

13 And so that will be worked into a development  
14 agreement.

15 They've also agreed to make other improvements  
16 to the community, which you've seen in the proposal.  
17 But you've heard about some of those this morning with  
18 Great Rivers Greenway and the improvements that they  
19 will make to the Chain of Rocks Bridge, which is a  
20 treasure for us nationally.

21 I'm a cyclist. A number of cycling friends look  
22 forward to being able to park right there at the  
23 facility, be able to ride the riverfront trail and the  
24 river loop and go over into Illinois, go over on the  
25 MCT trails and so on. So they have a great respect for

00070

1 the environment, and you will continue to see that in  
2 their proposal and as they work through the different  
3 aspects of their proposal.

4           So we feel that the Casino Celebration is the  
5 right size, it won't cannibalize the other casinos, as  
6 some might have stated. It's in the right location.  
7 The Chain of Rocks Bridge has been talked about as an  
8 ideal location for a casino for a number of years.  
9 This provides the right opportunity with the  
10 replacement license for the President to keep it in the  
11 city and keep it -- and put it at that location.

12           It has been mentioned that they will -- they  
13 have a commitment to minority and women businesses, not  
14 only on the construction side, but in terms of ongoing  
15 operations, which is key.

16           So we, again, are very much in support of Casino  
17 Celebration. It has been through our Port Authority  
18 and through our Land Clearance for Redevelopment  
19 Authority, and has been approved to continue going  
20 forward. So we, again, ask for your continued support  
21 of Casino Celebration being the best casino for the  
22 state of Missouri.

23                   CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you, Rodney.

24           Any questions?

25           Good to see you, sir.

00071

1           Okay. That's all the people that signed up as  
2 proponents on this license. Is there another -- anyone  
3 else that meant to sign up that didn't?

4           Okay. We'll move on then to the opposition.  
5 And the first person on my list is Troy Stremming.

6                     MR. STREMMING: Good morning once again,  
7 Chairman Mathews and Commission.

8           Troy Stremming with Ameristar Casinos. I'm  
9 senior vice president of government relations and  
10 public affairs for Ameristar.

11           I'd like to just first start -- I'd be remiss  
12 if I didn't comment on Senator Green's remarks because  
13 it's the first time in 14 years I've ever had a chance  
14 to speak back to what he says. But I'd just like to  
15 remind Senator Green that we are in a recession. It's  
16 the first time that we've had proof in our industry  
17 that we're not recession proof. And if you look at  
18 same store growth revenues in the St. Louis market, as  
19 well as the Kansas City market, you'll find that we're  
20 flat to negative in our revenues. But I'd also remind  
21 him that the cities of Las Vegas and Atlantic City and  
22 many other gaming markets around the country are down  
23 double digits, some of them as much as 20 percent, and  
24 had it not been for the passage of Proposition A, I  
25 think Missouri would see itself in the same position as

00072

1 those other gaming markets.

2           So with that, I will go on and say that is what  
3 our focus is in regards to this hearing. We're not in  
4 opposition of the issuance of a license in the state of  
5 Missouri. What we are in opposition of is the issuance  
6 of a license in a saturated market. I've provided you  
7 with an analysis. Again, this is updated. I have  
8 another set of documents here which puts a comparison  
9 between Cape Girardeau and St. Louis City market.

10           And in summary, I would just tell you that the  
11 analysis estimates approximately 72 percent of the  
12 St. Louis casino's AGR will come from existing Missouri  
13 casinos, which is even larger than the St. Louis County  
14 numbers I gave you earlier. Specifically, when  
15 compared to Cape Girardeau, even though Cape  
16 Girardeau's revenues again would be less than what  
17 would be produced by a casino in St. Louis City, since  
18 you are not dealing with the same incremental revenue,  
19 the comparison between Cape Girardeau and the St. Louis  
20 City project is \$24 million to the State versus  
21 \$10 million on the St. Louis City project.

22           So I've got nothing further to add. I would be  
23 more than happy to answer any questions you have. And  
24 I'll provide this to the Commission.

25                   CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you.

00073

1 Commissioners have any questions Mr. Stremming?

2 Michael Spurgeon. Spurgeon? Michael? No?

3 Moving on. Kat Logan Smith? Good morning.

4 MS. SMITH: Good morning.

5 Copies.

6 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you. Proceed,

7 ma'am, please.

8 MS. SMITH: Good morning. My name is

9 Kathleen Logan Smith. I am the executive director with  
10 the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, and I  
11 wanted to share some thoughts about the economics on  
12 Casino Celebration, which echoes some of the things  
13 that you've already heard today.

14 They project annual revenue of a \$120 million,  
15 thinking they're going to get 40 from Alton Belle  
16 patrons and 40 from new North County revenue and then  
17 40 million from Illinois residents. And we're thinking  
18 this is not exactly realistic because of the -- because  
19 revenues are down in casinos across the region for the  
20 most part, even if we assume that the money is going to  
21 come from St. Louis area revenue, it's pretty clear to  
22 us that at least 76 percent of River City's revenue  
23 that just opened was cannibalized from other casinos,  
24 and we think that that situation would be replicated  
25 here.

00074

1           In August 2010, River City revenues were  
2 14.8 million, as you've already heard. St. Louis area  
3 casino revenue was at only 1.4 million over August.  
4 Therefore, even if we assume that all of the  
5 1.4 million increase in St. Louis area casino revenue  
6 was captured by River City, which is unlikely, that  
7 would mean 13.4 million of River City's revenue was  
8 cannibalization from other casinos. So we're thinking  
9 that number is more like 90 percent.

10           The projection that one third of the revenues  
11 would consist of new money from North St. Louis County  
12 is unrealistic. That would assume there's a large  
13 population in North St. Louis County that wants to  
14 gamble and for some reason hasn't been able to find  
15 their way to any of our six casinos.

16           CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: There we go. I don't  
17 know. It -- the microphone went out there for a  
18 second. But I think it's good again.

19           MS. SMITH: Are we back? We're back.

20           If they argue that some of those North County  
21 residents are currently going to the Alton Belle, then  
22 they're double counting those patrons because they've  
23 already expected those to come over for this casino.

24           So whatever revenue comes from North County is  
25 not really new revenue for the State of Missouri

00075

1 because these are people who are probably spending  
2 those dollars somewhere else, unless they've got money  
3 saved up that they're just waiting to spend on  
4 gambling, which is really unlikely.

5         So realistically, how many North County  
6 residents are there who can't find a place to gamble  
7 anywhere else in Missouri and have savings that they're  
8 going to blow? That would be new revenue for the  
9 State.

10         The other projection is that one third,  
11 40 million from new revenues from Illinois residents.  
12 This is rather unrealistic, too, because even though  
13 there's vehicles traveling the bridge every day, a lot  
14 of those folks are truckers and a lot of those people  
15 are on their way to jobs and they have other places to  
16 go.

17         So how many Illinois residents whose destination  
18 is the local area around that exit and who are looking  
19 for a place to gamble and haven't been able to find  
20 one?

21         We have plenty of other attractions here in the  
22 region. We have professional sports. We have  
23 concerts. We have world-class museums, theaters, and  
24 casinos -- let me point out -- that attract anyone from  
25 Illinois that has money to spend. And it's highly

00076

1 unlikely that anyone exists in Illinois that hasn't  
2 found a way to spend money in St. Louis already.

3 I'd like to address the jobs issue, too. If I'm  
4 hiring people for a job, I look for people with  
5 experience and I think the casino operators do the  
6 same. So a lot of times, they're hiring folks that  
7 have been laid off from other casinos. And for those  
8 of you who don't live in the St. Louis region, it's  
9 probably fair to note that a lot of the people who come  
10 to work every day in St. Louis come to work across  
11 those bridges over the river and they're from Illinois.  
12 So they take their paychecks back home with them and  
13 they will spend them in Illinois, and they will not be  
14 spending that money here in St. Louis, except when they  
15 come to the Cards games, which we appreciate it.

16 The other point that I want to make for the  
17 entire region is that a casino is not really a good  
18 investment over the long term, because we've already  
19 invested in the natural area and the region of the  
20 confluence 125 to 150 million dollars. We have the  
21 Audubon Riverlands bird sanctuary. We have the Great  
22 Rivers Center. We have the Lewis and Clark historic  
23 sites.

24 We also have a whole list of facilities that was  
25 presented to you earlier this month from the Save the

00077

1 Confluence Coalition. It talks about the economic  
2 investments that have been made in the natural areas,  
3 over 100 miles of bike trails, for example, in the  
4 region. And a casino does not attract the same sort of  
5 patron that bike trails do. And therefore, it would  
6 not necessarily be seen by people who see natural areas  
7 as an asset. They wouldn't necessarily view a casino  
8 as a plus.

9           So we have dozens of empty projects that were  
10 hailed as job-creating investments at their  
11 groundbreaking ceremonies that are now sitting empty.  
12 We invested our tax money and our TIF money and our  
13 school funds and everything else in shopping malls and  
14 shopping centers and office parks that are now lined up  
15 for another taxpayer infusion of cash and the same set  
16 of failed promises.

17           Twenty five years from now, these casinos will  
18 be under-performing relics of concrete and faded neon,  
19 and what will we have to show for it? And yet, if we  
20 let nature take the stage, it will continue to delight  
21 people with the soaring flights of eagles and hawks and  
22 pelicans and the sound of wind in the trees and the  
23 vistas of the landscape that our forefathers shared.  
24 And we would ask that you would think in longer terms  
25 than we've been considering today.

00078

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you, ma'am.

3 Any questions?

4 Thank you. Ed Bass? Ed? Come forward, sir.

5 MR. BASS: My name is Ed Bass, B-a-s-s.

6 I'm pastor of the Power Church in Spanish Lake,  
7 Missouri, and my opposition is based on the following:

8 This year, we've had the greatest number of  
9 requests for food and utility payments that the church  
10 has ever experienced. The phone is literally ringing  
11 off the phone every day for people who are desperate  
12 and have nowhere else to turn. When people become  
13 desperate, sometimes they become delusional and they  
14 begin to reach out to other opportunities to try to fix  
15 a need, which even deepens the problem. My opposition  
16 is based on the fact that simply we are not helping  
17 people who are in trouble by creating opportunities to  
18 squander money that they can ill afford.

19 The other piece is we've addressed jobs and  
20 we've addressed the impact on the economy, but the real  
21 question is the jobs and the impact on the economy is  
22 coming out of somebody's pocket, and it's coming out of  
23 the pockets of people who don't have money to really  
24 support their own lives at this point.

25 I am totally opposed to a casino being built in

00079

1 proximity to the congregation that I'm responsible for,  
2 both in the Spanish Lake area and in the St. Louis  
3 area. We are not helping those people by what I  
4 believe to be almost a shell game, that we're creating  
5 jobs, because the casino would not exist if people did  
6 not come into the casinos and spend money. Where is  
7 that money coming from?

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you, sir.

10 Any questions?

11 Thank you, sir.

12 Bill Mellish? Hi, Bill.

13 MR. MELLISH: Good morning. Bill Mellish,  
14 M-e-l-l-i-s-h. It's like relish with an M and an extra  
15 L.

16 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: You made that up.

17 MR. MELLISH: I did. I've used it a long  
18 time, though.

19 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Oh, okay.

20 MR. MELLISH: I've been a resident of the  
21 St. Louis area for 40 years, but I grew up on the  
22 Mississippi River about four hours north of here in  
23 Moline, Illinois. Living near as a young boy, I would  
24 marvel at the beauty of the river and its wellness.  
25 I'm passionate about the river and that's why I'm here

00080

1 today.

2 I'm lucky to be able to read two letters to you  
3 from people who are equally passionate, but couldn't be  
4 here. One is from Senator Joan Bray. The other is  
5 from filmmaker Ken Burns. His letter underscores that  
6 your decision will be judged under a national, not just  
7 a regional, spotlight. So no additional pressure.

8 Here's the letter from Joan: "I am writing to  
9 implore you and your colleagues on the Missouri Gaming  
10 Commission to reject the applications for an additional  
11 casino in the St. Louis region. Two applications have  
12 been submitted for casinos in North St. Louis County.  
13 Both should be denied the thirteenth and the last  
14 license for a casino in the state for the same reasons.

15 "First, the casino industry has more than  
16 saturated the regional market with four in Missouri and  
17 two in Illinois. The most recent addition, in South  
18 St. Louis County, has primarily attracted gamblers from  
19 other casinos, causing them to lose revenue and  
20 bringing in very few new gamblers.

21 "Second, independent research discovered that  
22 the majority of residents of North County do not want a  
23 casino in their community. They know the gambling  
24 industry causes permanent changes to the look, feel,  
25 spirit, and physical characteristics of where they

00081

1 live.

2 "Third, both applications have environmental  
3 issues. The application for a casino next to the Chain  
4 of Rocks Bridge over the Mississippi River would  
5 development and pave a huge footprint immediately next  
6 to the freshwater intake for the drinking water supply  
7 for the entire St. Louis region, endangering the water  
8 from the inevitable runoff.

9 "The environmental impact of the other  
10 application would be even more destructive. As  
11 opponents to the development, Save the Confluence  
12 Coalition, note the 377-acre, multi-building complex,  
13 including a convention center with parking for 8,000  
14 cars in unincorporated Spanish Lake equivalent to  
15 almost 300 football fields, is in the very heart of the  
16 fragile wetlands area surrounding the confluence of the  
17 Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and immediately  
18 adjacent to the Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. The  
19 noise, light, stormwater runoff and the traffic  
20 pollution would have a devastating impact on this  
21 sensitive and nationally-significant historical  
22 environmental treasure.

23 "I would argue that the environmental  
24 degradation would have a more serious impact on tourism  
25 than any positive impact another casino would have on

00082

1 tourism, particularly noting that most recent  
2 experience with casino expansion proves no meaningful  
3 addition of tourists.

4 "My husband and I entertain numerous out-of-town  
5 guests, many of them from abroad. One of our favorite  
6 destinations to take them is the confluence of our two  
7 mighty rivers. Were the casino to be built at Columbia  
8 Bottom, I would stop taking guests there because I  
9 would be too embarrassed to have to explain the  
10 decision to trade environmental significance for  
11 financial greed. I know I'm not the only person who  
12 would react that way.

13 "And my final reason, Jim, you and I were both  
14 in the Legislature when we carefully crafted the bill  
15 that would regulate the casino industry. While I have  
16 grown to wish we had never allowed gambling, I've  
17 always been proud of the fact that we did a good job  
18 writing the law that governs it, and that the Gaming  
19 Commission, which you now chair, has taken the letter  
20 and the spirit of the law very seriously. As a result,  
21 the gaming industry in Missouri has been largely free  
22 of scandal and criminality.

23 "Opponents of the developments have published  
24 information raising questions about developers'  
25 questionable connections and conflicts of interest.

00083

1 While I cannot attest to the facts of the assertions, I  
2 do know that Missouri's casino industry must stay as  
3 clean as humanly possible.

4 "Jim, I appreciate the work that you are doing  
5 and the difficult position you and your colleagues  
6 face. If you do decide that a thirteenth casino is  
7 appropriate, I ask that you locate it somewhere other  
8 than the St. Louis region.

9 "Sincerely, Senator Joan Gray."

10 The second --

11 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Can you do it kind of  
12 quick?

13 MR. MELLISH: I can. It's very brief.

14 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Okay. The only  
15 reason I let you run over there was she was bragging on  
16 me and I wanted to hear it.

17 MR. MELLISH: I understand.

18 "The history of our nation is written not only  
19 by the people who lived it, but shaped by the very land  
20 itself. Many of the films I've produced, The West,  
21 Lewis and Clark, Mark Twain, and especially, the  
22 National Parks, have convinced me that the sheer  
23 physicality of this great continent we inhabit has  
24 played a crucial role in what kind of people a nation  
25 we became.

00084

1           "Nowhere is this more true than in the heart of  
2 America, where two of the world's mightiest rivers, the  
3 Missouri and the Mississippi, come together. It was  
4 where Lewis and Clark expedition began and where it  
5 ended. It was where Samuel Clemens became Mark Twain.  
6 And it was where so many other epic American stories  
7 got their start, from the fur traders and mountain men  
8 to the pioneers and 49ers; from the steamboat era to  
9 the Civil War; from America's pastime, baseball, to  
10 America's unique music, jazz and the blues.

11           "But the confluence of the Missouri and the  
12 Mississippi has a value that transcends history. It's  
13 a sanctuary for wildlife. And it is a place of beauty,  
14 a sanctuary for the soul where we can refresh our  
15 spirits and reconnect with the natural world. Places  
16 of such significance deserve to be cherished and  
17 preserved, as Theodore Roosevelt taught us, for our  
18 children and our children's children, with their  
19 majestic beauty all unmarred.

20           "Sincerely, Ken Burns."

21           Thank you, gentlemen.

22                   CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Okay. Dr. Patty  
23 Hagen, please?

24                   DR. HAGEN: Good morning.

25                   CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Good morning.

00085

1 DR. HAGEN: My name is Patricia Hagen.  
2 It's H-a-g-e-n. I'm the executive director of the  
3 Audubon Center at Riverlands. And I'm also a faculty  
4 member in the public policy department at St. Louis  
5 University.

6 I'm going to edit my talk a little bit, because  
7 some of these things have been mentioned, in the  
8 interest of your time.

9 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Good. Thank you.

10 DR. HAGEN: So I want to highlight the  
11 more than \$150 million that's been invested of private,  
12 state, and federal money in the transformation of the  
13 river corridor to highlight the natural beauty and  
14 resources of this area. These efforts have attracted  
15 national attention. Recently, Secretary of the  
16 Interior, Ken Salazar, came to our area to highlight  
17 its national significance and the efforts of many in  
18 the region to connect people to the rivers' great  
19 natural resources.

20 This confluence area is one of our greatest  
21 national treasures. It's located in a Great Rivers  
22 Confluence important bird area, which is under an  
23 international bird conservation program designed to  
24 identify, monitor and conserve areas that are the most  
25 important to migrating and breeding birds. It is

00086

1 considered one of the most significant migratory  
2 flyways on earth, and it's a key point in the  
3 Mississippi River flyway, where all the rivers come  
4 together.

5         It's used by nearly 330 bird species, one third  
6 of all bird species in North America, including 40  
7 percent of the continent's ducks, geese, swan and  
8 wading bird species. At times, the migrating bird  
9 species are so dense they can be viewed on weather  
10 radar. A casino in this important and fragile area  
11 would be devastating to the natural functionality of  
12 the critical migratory flyway.

13         I know that the Commission is interested in the  
14 most favorable economics for the State of Missouri, and  
15 I understand that. But as you consider the economics  
16 of these proposals, please keep in mind the destructive  
17 effects that a casino would have on the major tourism  
18 efforts that have been nurtured and developed in the  
19 confluence region, reference the \$150 million.

20         In fact, we believe strongly that the continued  
21 development of nature tourism offerings will result in  
22 greater economic development opportunities for the  
23 State and for local communities than any casino ever  
24 could.

25         Major tourism is one of our nation's highest-



00088

1 Any questions?

2 Peg Rustige? Peg?

3 MS. RUSTIGE: My name is Peggy Rustige.

4 That's R-u-s-t-i-g-e. I'm president of the Riverview

5 Drive Improvement Association. This association was

6 founded in the early 1950s and we have been staunch

7 guardians and passionate about maintaining our area,

8 particularly the riverfront.

9 In our area is a national historical landmark,

10 the Chain of Rocks Bridge, where majestic eagles fly.

11 On the north, Riverfront Park, we have wonderful

12 biking, hiking trails and fishing. The mighty

13 Mississippi is our front yard. We do not want or need

14 another casino in the St. Louis area, particularly in

15 this area.

16 The proposed casino will produce much additional

17 traffic on Riverview Drive, passing directly through

18 our neighborhood on a thoroughfare that is one of the

19 most dangerous in the city. We do not need the extra

20 traffic with additional accidents causing more injuries

21 and death.

22 There are six casinos within a half hour drive

23 of this area now. The St. Louis Metro area is

24 saturated. Gentlemen, I would refer you to your own

25 study conducted by UMSL in January of 2008. And I will

00089

1 take these and make it as concise as I can.

2                   CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you.

3                   MS. RUSTIGE: It says -- and that's hard  
4 for me, Mr. Mathewson. That's extremely hard.

5                   "Missouri's casinos may expect increasingly  
6 aggressive competition against the backdrop of a  
7 downward trend in patronage, raising substantial  
8 concerns about the capacity to absorb additional  
9 casinos. Existing facilities will experience reduction  
10 in revenue."

11                  All in your report.

12                  Constantly, we as citizens in neighborhood  
13 organizations have to fight big money to protect the  
14 precious resources we have. It is clear we do not need  
15 another casino, especially when it will ruin the  
16 coveted environment and sensitive wetlands that is  
17 there now.

18                  The building of another casino will not provide  
19 large increases in revenue or jobs. They are moved  
20 around from one facility to another. It is a shell  
21 game. There is no new money.

22                  The Chain of Rocks casino site is directly  
23 across from the St. Louis Water Division's fresh water  
24 intake system, threatening the very drinking water  
25 supply with runoff of oil, anti-freeze, gasoline, and

00090

1 other contaminants from the parking lots from this  
2 proposed development.

3           The building of a casino at either of the  
4 proposed North Metro St. Louis area sites would destroy  
5 the eco-systems, threaten the wetlands, floodplains,  
6 migratory flyways and increase flooding down river.  
7 Instead, our state should be exploring ways to attract  
8 more eco-tourism and investing in open space showing --  
9 showcasing this spectacular area.

10           Over \$25 million was spent developing the  
11 confluence area. Millions more were spent by the  
12 Missouri Department of Conservation, Federal Community  
13 Development Block Grant dollars, and city dollars in  
14 the development of the North Riverfront Park.  
15 Presently, plans are underway to beautify and enhance  
16 that park. All of this will have been for naught with  
17 the next flood if either of these casinos are built, as  
18 the developments will displace that water and these  
19 areas will be destroyed forever.

20           You came to listen to us. I only hope you hear  
21 us loud and clear. We do not want nor need either of  
22 the casinos in this area. We ask that you be wise  
23 stewards of these, our national treasures.

24           Thank you. I have copies because I --

25                   CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Okay. Good. Thank

00091

1 you very much. Thank you very much for doing that.

2 MS. RUSTIGE: I surely wouldn't want you  
3 to miss anything.

4 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Okay. Time wise, it  
5 looks like we have time for one more. They've kind of  
6 been moved around her, but I think Shelley Finn  
7 [phonetic] -- you all kind of traded places or  
8 something.

9 MS. FINN: You know what, actually, would  
10 you mind if -- because she would represent way more  
11 people. I was just going to speak on my behalf.

12 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Okay.

13 MS. FINN: And get the president of our  
14 neighborhood association, who represents over 30  
15 members. And so if I could defer my --

16 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Who would that be,  
17 ma'am?

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Barb Floreth.

19 MS. FINN: Barb Floreth.

20 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Oh, here it is.

21 Sure.

22 MS. FINN: Thank you very much.

23 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: And then we'll need  
24 to wrap up, ma'am. So thank you very much.

25 MS. FLORETH: Thank you, Shelley. Thank

00092

1 you very much. A few of us worked very hard on these  
2 comments, so I appreciate it.

3 Thank you, Commission.

4 My name is Barbara Floreth, F-l-o-r-e-t-h, and I  
5 am president of the Chain of Rocks Community  
6 Association. I speak on behalf of those city neighbors  
7 who live in the homes that directly border the Chain of  
8 Rocks Bridge, the City of St. Louis Water Treatment  
9 Plant, and the North Riverfront Park. As such, we have  
10 an intimate understanding of the unique problems and  
11 possibilities of our area.

12 We believe that the proposed Casino Celebration  
13 complex represents an assault on the character of the  
14 region and is not what is needed to improve the  
15 amenities that this area has to offer.

16 Now, we realize the features that make our area  
17 special, the historic Chain of Rocks Bridge, the park  
18 that borders the Mississippi, the bike and hiking  
19 trail, these would not simply go away if the casino  
20 development comes to fruition. We understand the  
21 argument that money might be infused in the area, and  
22 we understand the need for jobs. Several of our  
23 members are currently unemployed and looking for work.  
24 But we ask at what cost?

25 We understand that the City needs revenue, but

00093

1 should this neighborhood pay for the City's lost  
2 revenue caused by the closing of the President Casino?  
3 We don't believe the area should or even can support  
4 the development, and we don't believe that our city  
5 leaders have thought this through.

6         As an example, St. Louis City's water intake  
7 from the Mississippi River is located immediately down  
8 river and adjacent to the proposed casino. Parking lot  
9 runoff, accidental spills, waste disposal and increased  
10 demands on sewer lines represent some, but not all of  
11 the potential and serious threats to the safety of the  
12 City's water supply. We say the benefit is not worth  
13 the risk, not for another casino.

14         Another example is Riverview Drive, along which  
15 the casino would be located. This street is a two-lane  
16 road in a residential neighborhood prone to flash  
17 flooding and difficult to maintain, as well as serving  
18 as a major connecting route for commuters and trucks to  
19 Interstate 270. Why increase traffic 24/7 on a road  
20 that already has serious maintenance and traffic issues  
21 that MoDOT and the City have been unable to address to  
22 date? We say it's not worth risking the safety of  
23 everyone that uses Riverview Drive.

24         And what about the cost to the environment and  
25 culture amenities? The City of St. Louis this year

00094

1 spent over \$100,000 and passed a North Riverfront Park  
2 Master Plan that recognizes the need to preserve the  
3 park's inherent nature. They have adopted the  
4 Riverfront Trail Master Plan, which calls for limiting  
5 development for uses compatible with conservation.

6 We're concerned about the effect that 25 acres  
7 of 24/7 commercial activity would have. We ask why  
8 build another casino on a stretch of land that has so  
9 many other possible uses to offer?

10 We support projects like the current development  
11 in this area by City Museum owner, Bob Cassilly. It's  
12 called Cement Land. This attraction will increase the  
13 City and Ward's tax base. It will bring people to the  
14 area to spend money without altering the character of  
15 the neighborhood the way a casino would.

16 Recently, a group of tourists told one of our  
17 members they did three things while in St. Louis: They  
18 visited the Arch, they went to Ted Drewes for ice  
19 cream, and they went to the Chain of Rocks Bridge.

20 We, as residents, are not the only ones who see  
21 the value in this area. We're proud that our  
22 neighborhood serves as an attractive and historic  
23 visitors' entrance to the city of St. Louis, as well as  
24 the state of Missouri. We would not be proud to have  
25 that entrance marred by another casino with its

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1 inappropriate construction, parking lots and flashy  
2 signage.

3 We encourage the citizens of St. Louis, our city  
4 leaders and the State of Missouri to look beyond the  
5 immediate gains that this proposal is leading us to  
6 expect. We do not believe it is worth the cost to this  
7 unique city region. We hope the Commission agrees.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you, ma'am,  
10 very much.

11 MR. LOUDON: If I can, I have one more  
12 announcement.

13 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Okay. Please.

14 MR. LOUDON: And I appreciate the  
15 Commission's indulgence based on time.

16 For those who were not able to testify, I would  
17 -- and want to oppose, as do I, I'm going to put my  
18 statement in writing. So they'll take anything in  
19 writing. But we also have Lauren Crandell here, who is  
20 going to take video testimony, if you want to do that.

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Okay. Thanks, John.

23 Again, thank you all very, very much. I've --  
24 you've been very gracious and we appreciate that very,  
25 very much. We will wrap this up and Chair would accept

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1 a motion to go out of our public meeting.

2 COMMISSIONER SHULL: So moved.

3 COMMISSIONER JONES: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: We have a motion and  
5 a second. Is there any discussion?

6 Call the roll, Angie, please?

7 MS. FRANKS: Chairman Mathewson?

8 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Approve.

9 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Shull?

10 COMMISSIONER SHULL: Approve.

11 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Jones?

12 COMMISSIONER JONES: Approve.

13 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Hatches?

14 COMMISSIONER HATCHES: Approve.

15 MS. FRANKS: Commissioner Merritt?

16 COMMISSIONER MERRITT: Approve.

17 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: We are now out of  
18 session. Thank you all very, very much. Be safe  
19 wherever your destination might be.

20 (Thereupon, the hearing was concluded.)

21 Original, condensed copy, ASCII e-mailed to  
22 Angie Franks.

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1 STATE OF MISSOURI)

2 COUNTY OF PIKE )

3 I, Elizabeth R. Blackburn, a Certified Court  
4 Reporter within and for the State of Missouri, do  
5 certify that I was present at the Renaissance St. Louis  
6 Airport Hotel, 9801 Natural Bridge Road, in the County  
7 of St. Louis, State of Missouri, on the 28th day of  
8 September, A.D., 2010, commencing at the hour of 9:00  
9 a.m. of that day; that thereafter, a hearing was held,  
10 that all proceedings which then transpired were  
11 contemporaneously reduced to voice writing by me, and  
12 later transcribed into typewriting, and that the  
13 foregoing 96 pages are a true and accurate transcript  
14 of the record of proceedings made by me at that time.

15 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand  
16 this 12th day of October, A.D., 2010.

17

18

19

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth R. Blackburn #1092

20

Certified Court Reporter within

21

and for the State of Missouri

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