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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

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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

00012

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. Stottlemyre --" 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

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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

00051

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-

00087

1 grossing economic activities. It attracts both
2 international and national travelers. Over 87 million
3 U.S. residents fished, hunted or watched wildlife in
4 2006, and more than \$122 billion was spent on wildlife
5 recreation, which contribute millions of jobs and
6 millions of dollars to local, state, and federal tax
7 revenues. Birding expenditures alone resulted in more
8 than \$11 billion in tax revenues, creating 671,000 jobs
9 and 28 billion in employment income.

10 With all due respect, I implore you to consider
11 the long term negative environmental effects of a
12 casino development in this area, as well -- and the
13 floodplain and along the river here, as well as the
14 efforts and investments of dozens of organizations and
15 businesses in the region to realize a sustainable
16 vision for these beautiful, fragile natural resources.

17 And finally, I'll just mention the community has
18 come together to oppose the spoiling of these areas now
19 and for future generations. We're not going to give up
20 this important work. We'll continue to oppose over-
21 development in these precious lands because it is the
22 right thing to do for our environment, for our economy
23 and for the very character of our community.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN MATHEWSON: Thank you very much.

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

00095

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

00096

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.

23

24

25

00097

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

22

23

24

25