

1 MR. ASHE: Good afternoon. My name is Paul Ashe, I'm a  
2 chairman and president of the National Council on Problem  
3 Gambling. I think I'm going to propose at the next meeting to  
4 change our name to the National Council of Disordered Gambling.

5 Madame Chair, Commissioners, we would like to begin our  
6 remarks by commending you all -- .

7 CHAIR JAMES: How are we doing on the mike?

8 MR. ASHE: I would like to commend you all on the  
9 landmark work you have done over the past year and a half, the  
10 task is not a simple one, and you ought to be congratulated for  
11 the effort you have made to further our nation's understanding of  
12 the impact of gambling on our society today.

13 As you begin to prepare your final report to Congress  
14 and the President, we would like to again thank you on behalf of  
15 the problem gamblers we serve for the opportunity to contribute  
16 to this effort.

17 The National Council on Problem Gaming has submitted in  
18 detail our written recommendations this past week, which were  
19 submitted on February 3rd, and constitutes a 30 bullet summary,  
20 which you asked to be consolidated to three pages, and we tried  
21 to comply with your request.

22 As a national organization we have grown to represent  
23 affiliates in 35 states, and have collected issues and concerns  
24 from across the country with feedback from our membership which  
25 includes experts from around the world.

26 The NCPG understands that the majority of Americans  
27 enjoy gambling as a form of entertainment. However, it is not a  
28 risk-free activity. You have heard a wide variety of discussions  
29 on definitions, studies and surveys.

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1           But it is an important thing to remember, that while  
2 pathological gambling is a relatively rare disease, it is a real  
3 disorder. This disorder can be researched, it can be identified,  
4 and it can be treated.

5           I would like to present our Executive Vice President to  
6 highlight our primary recommendations. Thank you.

7

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