

1 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Linda Aggasid.

2 MS. AGGASID: Good afternoon, Madame Chairman,
3 Commission members. My name is Linda Aggasid, and I work at the
4 Fremont Hotel and Casino, a union hotel located in downtown Las
5 Vegas. I'm a food server and I've been employed there for
6 almost seven years.

7 I moved here from Hawaii where I was in management
8 for many years. Having no casino experience, it was difficult
9 finding employment. I finally obtained a job as an assistant
10 manager in a sandwich shop working for minimum wages. This
11 full-time job, however, became less than a scheduled 40-hour a
12 week job as hours were reduced. I was required to clock out as
13 scheduled and any work not completed had to be finished on my
14 own time. In other words, I was not paid for any time worked
15 past the scheduled time. Benefits there were not available
16 until one worked for six months, and even then it was only for
17 medical. Dental and vision benefits did not become available
18 until a year's employment had elapsed. Also the employee's
19 contribution to cover oneself and dependents was prohibitive
20 considering the minimum wage earned.

21 I decided I had had enough of this ill treatment and
22 sought employment elsewhere. The opportunity to work for
23 Fremont presented itself and I was hired. During my employment
24 I was offered a management position, but I declined it because I
25 earned more as a food server than as an entry level management
26 person. As a worker employed in a union hotel, I now have job

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1 security and excellent medical, dental and vision plan that I
2 make no employee contribution for, a pension plan when I retire,
3 wages for all hours that I work, and peace of mind. Because of
4 my job in the gaming industry, my husband and I are able to pay
5 the mortgage on our home even though he took an early
6 retirement, and we can enjoy a quality of life and a standard of
7 living that we would not have achieved were it not for gaming
8 and my union job. Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

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