

1 COMMISSIONER WILHELM: The last item on our agenda is
2 the Public Comment section. Some of you have come in, I think
3 perhaps, since I gave this speech once before, but because of the
4 situation outside -- and I understand in the lobby as well -- the
5 chair recommended changing the Gambling Impact Study Commission's
6 agenda for this afternoon insofar as a number of the
7 commissioners had to leave and a number of the scheduled
8 witnesses were not able to come. We did, however, suspend our
9 normal rules and the three of us that you see here stayed for the
10 purpose of receiving testimony from those who were able to come
11 and willing to stay, and we very much, again, appreciate all of
12 those who have done that.

13 I have a list of those who were originally signed up
14 for the Public Comment section, including both those who had been
15 scheduled to speak and those who were on the wait list, and I
16 understand that at least some of those individuals are here. And
17 again, I want to assure all of you that in spite of the fact that
18 some of our fellow commissioners are not here, that those of you
19 who do testify in the Public Comment section, your testimony will
20 be made available to all of the commissioners as well as to
21 others who are interested, it will be part of the permanent
22 record, and if you have any written testimony to submit in
23 addition to your allocated comments, that written testimony will
24 likewise be shared with all of the commissioners and made a part
25 of the permanent record.

26 I don't want anybody to feel in the Public Comment
27 section that the change in the procedure here will in any way
28 diminish the value of your testimony. I personally have found

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1 the Public Comment sections in all of the Commission's site
2 visits to be extremely valuable, and we very much appreciate
3 those of you who are here for that purpose.

4 I'm just going to go through the list in the order
5 that it was originally compiled, and if any of the people that I
6 call are here, I'd appreciate it when I call your name if you
7 would just come forward.

8 The Commission's normal rule -- which the Chair has
9 strictly adhered to -- for public comment is three minutes. I
10 think you may have been advised of that already. We don't
11 necessarily need to cut you off at the stroke of 180 seconds, as
12 we've done in other sessions, but I would ask you to try to
13 confine your comments to the three-minute period, and if you run
14 a little bit over, we won't get too upset.

15 And again, I'm just going to call these names and if
16 you're here, as I call your name, please just come forward. The
17 first person on the original list is Brenda Jean Bray.
18 Wonderful, the first person is here.

19 And I would ask each of you, to the extent that you
20 are with an organization or if you want to otherwise identify
21 yourself, please do that when you begin your comments.

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