the local Baltimore Sun, we can see that there's a
growing dependency from the state. These ads are paid
for with state dollars, taxpayer dollars.
The trend is that we want to see this
reversed at the state level and the local level where
government should be a protector and not a predator.
And I thank you all for being involved
with us in this issue.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mr. Hollingsworth.

MR. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you very much.

I'm Pierre Hollingsworth of the NAACP of
Atlantic City and also a former city commissioner when
gaming was passed in the City of Atlantic City.

This year represents 21 years since the
passage of gaming in Atlantic City. Many of the
residents of Horace Bryant, Jr. Drive, the West Side,
Monroe, Venice Park, this same lagoon area supported
and voted for gaming for the job opportunities and
economic development that was presented.

Organizations throughout this threatened
area have adjusted to the traffic down Ohio Avenue,
construction of the Convention Center, and increased
fumes from Route 30, which is Absecon Boulevard
traffic.

Now, because environmental laws have given
greater protection to birds and wetlands and due to
the fear of lawsuits by environmental groups, New
Jersey state government and an unlicensed casino who
left town years ago because of strict government
regulations have turned to abandoning their support of
this neighborhood and to uproot families from their
homes.

What has changed since the unanimous no
vote to the tunnel that was supported by the mayor and
all of city council? Many were wined and dined in Las
Vegas. They returned to Atlantic City and changed
their vote.

Clearly, it appears that an effort has
started to buy out families and intimidate those who
oppose this program by labeling them as people who are
opposed to jobs and economic development and growth.

What is actually being said is that a
choice must be made between wetlands and birds first
and people and their families and neighborhoods last.

Do we have laws on the books that say all other plans must be exhausted, including moving families, before the wetlands or birds can be disturbed? It appears that this is the easy way to move out the black community.

Just as roadways throughout the 1960s trampled through urban communities, state government and the mirage is saying, "Let's continue to do that. Why change?" It takes more than effort to be sensitive.

This connector tunnel, cut-and-cover project, or whatever you want to call it, will destroy a very stable residential community.

The population of Atlantic City has been reduced to 35,000, and it used to be 48,000 in 1976, and for many years there have always been discussions to build across the wetlands, but now because Steve Wynn said that he would not build in Atlantic City unless he has a road to his casino, government puppets have changed their mind.

This is not about nine homes. It is about
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mr. McCabe.

MR. McCabe: Yes, thank you, distinguished members of the Commission.

My name is Christopher McCabe, and I've represented Maryland's 14th Senate District since 1991. While I have been involved in a variety of issues impacting my state since entering public service, the issue of expanded gambling has commanded my greatest focus over the past three years.

In 1995, in response to what I perceived was a concerted effort by out-of-state interests to try to legalize casinos in Maryland, I co-founded Marylanders Against Casinos, a grassroots business and citizen coalition opposed to this legalization.

Aside from gambling that is authorized on Indian lands, the debate over gambling, how much, what kind, where, is largely decided by elected legislators in state capitals across America. In 1995, the Maryland General Assembly created a task force similar in scope to the National Gambling Impact