

1 a community.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mr. McCabe.

4 MR. McCABE: Yes, thank you, distinguished
5 members of the Commission.

6 My name is Christopher McCabe, and I've
7 represented Maryland's 14th Senate District since
8 1991. While I have been involved in a variety of
9 issues impacting my state since entering public
10 service, the issue of expanded gambling has commanded
11 my greatest focus over the past three years.

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

17 Aside from gambling that is authorized on
18 Indian lands, the debate over gambling, how much, what
19 kind, where, is largely decided by elected
20 legislators in state capitals across America. In
21 1995, the Maryland General Assembly created a task
22 force similar in scope to the National Gambling Impact

1 Study Commission to assess the costs and benefits of
2 expanded gambling in the form of casinos and slot
3 machine operations.

4 Our six-month study included testimony
5 from national experts, is dwarfed in size and
6 resources to yours, but I anticipate that your
7 conclusions will be quite similar to ours, that the
8 long-range negative economic, social and political
9 impact of more gambling far exceed the short-term tax
10 revenue and job creation from casino type gambling.

11 The Maryland Task Force on Commercial
12 Gaming Activities unanimously recommended to oppose
13 casino legalization, but this recommendation has been
14 largely forgotten as industry lobbyists and certain
15 elected officials in our states contend that we need
16 to be ahead of the gambling curve and that our horse
17 racing industry is suffering because we do not have
18 slot machines.

19 You will be inundated with information
20 both for and against gambling during your deliberations.
21 My State of Maryland already has more than its fair
22 share: lottery, keno, and parimutuel betting. While

1 I could comfortably argue that government acts
2 immorally when it encourages activities that make
3 losers out of most of our citizens, I choose to
4 emphasize the arguments that more gambling results in
5 failed businesses, broken homes, lost productivity in
6 the work place, higher regulatory and governmental
7 costs, and political corruption.

8 While I will continue these arguments in
9 my state as pressure increases for more gambling, I
10 ask you to look at the collective experiences across
11 the land of this legal, but damaging form of
12 entertainment. I ask you to keep in mind that while
13 we must respect the freedom and rights of individuals
14 to pursue legal activities in our society, we must
15 face up to the cost to the culture of unfettered
16 gambling.

17 Finally, I would like to express the
18 wishes of Mayor Jim Mathias of Ocean City, Maryland,
19 who is here today, who is in partnership with those in
20 opposition to the proliferation of more gambling in
21 our state. He knows that more gambling stands as the
22 greatest threat to tourism in Ocean City and other

1 resort areas.

2 Thank you for your service to the
3 Commission, and I would be glad to act as a state
4 resource to you as you conduct this important work.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Jim, how do you
7 pronounce your last name?

8 MR. ZEISLOFT: Zeisloft.

9 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Zeisloft, Mr. Jim
10 Zeisloft.

11 MR. ZEISLOFT: Zeisloft. I wanted to say
12 thank you to the Commission for this opportunity to
13 speak with you.

14 I am James Zeisloft, the Executive
15 Director of United Methodist Witness in Pennsylvania.
16 I represent some 565,000 United Methodists across the
17 commonwealth as an advocate at the State House.

18 I wanted to speak to you about gambling as
19 a moral issue, not a religious issue as the gaming
20 interests might accuse me, but as a moral issue, nor
21 can we agree with Senator Paul Simon that the question
22 of gambling should not be a moral one; rather, it