In fact, my wife and I were even able to qualify to adopt our beautiful daughter in 1983, thanks in part to the financial stability that my casino career has brought me.

My story may not be the most glamorous example of the positive impact of casinos. In fact, it's just one of thousands of success stories from my company, Harrah's, alone.

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Well, thank you for coming and sharing that story, and I'm going to ask you to submit the rest of that for the record.

And we now have Ms. -- is it Effie Elzey?

MS. ELZEY: Effie Elzey.

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: And Jim Mathias; is that correct?

MS. ELZEY: Yes. I'm county commissioner for Dorchester County, and I'm going to defer my testimony to the mayor, but I first want to ask you to consider the small counties in Maryland of which I am a part, and we are a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

I've given you written testimony of our
book, and I would like you if you do a fact finding trip to come to Dorchester County and see what a small county is like with limited resources.

We are the heart of the Eastern Shore, our county is, but the voice of the Eastern Shore is the Honorable Mayor of Ocean City, Maryland, Mr. Jim Mathias.

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

MR. MATHIAS: Thank you, Effie.

Madame Chair, members of the Commission, I'm here to tell you today that life is good in Ocean City and on the Eastern Shore, and we want to ask your help in keeping it that way.

As the mayor, I just want to testify that Ocean City, Maryland, is the finest seaside resort in our nation. Every day in our wonderful city, the second largest city in the State of Maryland, throughout the summer season we host citizens from the entire eastern region of the United States in search of the traditional seaside vacation they have come to enjoy.

Beautiful, safe, clean, wide beaches,