

1 book, and I would like you if you do a fact finding
2 trip to come to Dorchester County and see what a small
3 county is like with limited resources.

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

8 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

9 MR. MATHIAS: Thank you, Effie.

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

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

22 Beautiful, safe, clean, wide beaches,

1 laughing children with loving parents and grandparents
2 making memories on our boardwalk, along with the aroma
3 of french fries, cotton candy, and caramel popcorn in
4 the air as the calliope of one of the nation's oldest
5 wooden carrousel plays through the night are just
6 some of the ingredients of the unparalleled Ocean City
7 vacation experience.

8 MR. McCARTHY: I was just going to say to
9 this witness if you keep going, we're going to charge
10 you for a commercial.

11 MR. MATHIAS: Well, I'll tell you. We've
12 got plenty of room in the bus. So you come on down
13 with us, and we'll show you what we've got. We
14 brought a bus up because I knew you couldn't resist.

15 But as we continue, thank you. I
16 appreciate that.

17 This atmosphere, which includes families
18 and friends from all over America, is a true
19 partnership with the dedicated, hard working families
20 that have built Ocean City to the successful, world
21 class family resort it has now become. We strive
22 constantly to preserve that atmosphere and shudder to

1 think some day our family based resort town could be
2 threatened by the selfish, cold, corporate gambling
3 industry which drives the economy of yet another
4 resort town, Atlantic City, New Jersey, on a few air
5 miles up the Atlantic Coast.

6 As part of our credo we vigilantly fight
7 the continuous efforts of the gambling industry to
8 proliferate in our great town and throughout the
9 entire State of Maryland.

10 Today I stand together with my police
11 chief, Dave Massey, and other Maryland state elected
12 officials to further implore your help to assist us in
13 our efforts to protect the citizens of Maryland, as
14 well as our neighboring states, whose quality of life
15 and economic well-being is essential to their vitality
16 and to Ocean City, Maryland's bright future.

17 As you are well aware, this industry once
18 prospered in as few as only state, yet now
19 aggressively exists in 23. Please recognize the
20 growth of the gambling industry as a nationwide
21 concern affecting the health, safety, and the welfare
22 of every citizen throughout our great land.

1 Urge the conscience of our federal elected
2 officials to rise to the need for immediate gambling
3 regulation. The continued wholesome quality of life
4 of American towns like Ocean City, Maryland, as well
5 as other home towns throughout our great land, look to
6 you for help in making these much needed regulations
7 become a reality.

8 The residents and visitors of Ocean City,
9 Maryland, thank you for this opportunity, as well as
10 the opportunity we have to work together protecting
11 the quality of life of all Americans.

12 Thank you, and I'll see you on the
13 Boardwalk.

14 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

15 Cheryl Lowell.

16 MS. LOWELL: Good afternoon,
17 Commissioners. My name is Cheryl Lowell. I'm
18 employed by Grand Casino, Gulfport, Mississippi. I'm
19 a lifelong resident of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

20 The gaming industry has opened up career
21 opportunities for me that would not have been realized
22 otherwise. I worked in lower level management for