

1 America, which is spending thousands of dollars in  
2 Cecil County.

3 Please put a leash on this company and  
4 keep them out of our county.

5 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.

6 Ira.

7 MR. SHTAB: Ira Shtab.

8 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Shtab. Thank you.

9 MR. SHTAB: How are you tonight?

10 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Just fine.

11 MR. SHTAB: Well, thank you for hearing  
12 me.

13 Before moving to Atlantic City area --

14 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Ira, I'm going to have to  
15 ask you to get closer so the people in the back can  
16 hear you.

17 MR. SHTAB: Sure. How's this? A little  
18 better?

19 CHAIRMAN JAMES: That's much better.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. SHTAB: Okay. Before moving to  
22 Atlantic City area --

1                   CHAIRMAN JAMES:  Ira, I want to make sure  
2 that the people in the back have the opportunity to  
3 hear you, and I'm going to ask that if you want to  
4 engage in conversation to please go out in the hallway  
5 to do that because it's difficult, I'm told, for some  
6 of the people in the back to hear what's going on.

7                    Could you start the time over again for  
8 Ira?

9                   MR. SHTAB:  Thank you very much.

10                  CHAIRMAN JAMES:  You're welcome.

11                  MR. SHTAB:  Appreciate it.

12                  Before moving to Atlantic City --

13                  COMMISSIONER MOORE:  Sit up and speak into  
14 your mike.

15                  CHAIRMAN JAMES:  Come on.

16                  MR. SHTAB:  Before moving to Atlantic  
17 City, I lived in North Jersey.  I worked for a company  
18 for 15 years.  Although the pay was very well, the  
19 benefits weren't there.  I had no coverage, no Blue  
20 Cross/Blue Shield, pension, or any of the above.

21                  I had a newborn child that passed away at  
22 three days old, which left me many thousands and

1 thousands of dollars in hospital bills, which I paid  
2 through gradually and got ahead.

3 I then decided to move to Atlantic City  
4 and see what it was like. Although I still didn't  
5 work for the casinos at this point yet, I still  
6 hesitated, like, you know, I wasn't quite sure.

7 I then went to an interview for a job, got  
8 a job at the Sands Hotel, which is a struggling  
9 casino; got a job over there. I doubled my salary.  
10 I have a good job. I have good benefits.

11 Having this job allows me to spend time  
12 with my children, and it allows me to be at home more.  
13 I have a wife that also works in the casino industry.  
14 She's a dealer. She also has a lot of amenities, a  
15 401(k) plan, good benefits, which allow us to save  
16 money for our kids' future, college, and so forth.

17 And although I'm still working for the  
18 American dream, I don't own a home yet. I am a  
19 renter, but I am working towards that. Hopefully in  
20 six months we're going to have that new home.

21 I think by taxing gambling or regulating  
22 it more, it would only mean more loss of jobs, and

1 speaking from my own personal experience from my own  
2 hotel where I work, which is very difficult.

3           Working through this collective bargaining  
4 agreement, we have -- I thank God. My wife is sick  
5 again. I thank God although now I have good benefits,  
6 I don't have to worry this time around with thousands  
7 of dollars of bills again; that this time it will be  
8 paid, you know.

9           And I talk about bettering myself. It was  
10 all like, I mean, like other people. I want to  
11 reeducate myself and go back to school. I thank God  
12 through a collective bargaining agreement through the  
13 union that we now have I guess you would call it  
14 grants or loans through the state, you know, through  
15 the union that was worked out. I'm able to go back to  
16 school to get a degree in culinary arts, which will  
17 increase my earning potential.

18           And that's basically all I want to say.  
19 I don't need to take up the whole three minutes.

20           CHAIRMAN JAMES: But you have.

21           (Laughter.)

22           MR. SHTAB: Thank you very much.