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1 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: I'd like to call the
2 Commission back to order for the public comment portion
3 of our meeting. We have a long list of speakers, with
4 a lot of very important information that they'd like to
5 share with the Commission.

6 In the interests of maintaining fairness to
7 the speakers, I'd like to ask Commissioners, again, to
8 refrain from asking questions or offering observations
9 either during or between the speaker's presentation.
10 That's awfully difficult for us to do, but in order to
11 get through the list of speakers, we are on a receive
12 mode.

13 And I just want to make sure the audience
14 understands that. If we don't jump in, it's not
15 because we don't have an opinion or because we agree or
16 disagree, it's because during the public comment period
17 we exercise that kind of restraint in order to provide
18 as much public comment as we can possibly get.

19 I would say to the Commissioners here at
20 the table that the testimony of our speakers is being
21 gathered for us and kept at the back of the room, so
22 they won't come up each time and give it to us, unless
23 you'd like to have it in front of you. And they have
24 it for you in the back and it will be mailed to you.

1 Let's see, any other points. I would ask
2 our speakers to keep an eye on our timer, who is over
3 here. And with that I think we will begin. We are
4 ready for our first speaker.

5 I'd like to say to all our speakers who are
6 here tonight, your observations and your concerns and
7 your insights are a critical part of our investigation
8 and we look forward to hearing your Testimony.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON JAMES:

11 Mr. Leon Johnson?

12 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, ma'am.

13 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Go right ahead.

14 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening panel members,
15 my name is Leon Johnson. I'm a former employee of the
16 Foxwoods Casino. Foxwoods was the best thing that ever
17 happened to me, a middle aged man, late thirties, with
18 no college degree. I was given an opportunity to work
19 for an astonishing Indian casino. They gave me my
20 first chance to work on a slot machine, with no prior
21 experience.

22 My life, my dreams came to an abrupt end.
23 I was accused of an infraction and I lost my job. I
24 thought I would get my job back when they completed

1 their investigation; well, I was terminated. I
2 attended the board of review hearing as requested, with
3 the presence of my attorney, my attorney was instructed
4 to wait out in the lobby until the hearing was done,
5 henceforth, I was not represented, due process was
6 taken away from me.

7 Panel members, do we live in America where
8 we have a Constitution, human rights, decency, respect,
9 righteousness, innocent until proven guilty? Foxwoods
10 workers don't have any of that, all of my rights were
11 taken away from me. Every American is given the 14th
12 Amendment.

13 The executive director of the tribal gaming
14 commission who oversees the standards of all slot
15 operations, informed upper management that it is
16 impossible for a slot tech to do what I was terminated
17 for. My case in tribal court raised a red flag, the
18 tribal court stated in a decision that review board
19 policies are not a fair process and do not meet minimum
20 of the Indian Civil Rights Act.

21 I came here today because I do not want
22 this to happen to anybody else. Every American has the
23 right to be represented by an attorney. Foxwoods took
24 my rights from me as an American citizen. It has been

1 three long financial years since they fired me. I had
2 to start from the beginning. I did not do anything
3 wrong.

4 Everybody is entitled to due process in
5 America, that is what America's Constitution is all
6 about. This decision will set a precedent for all
7 casino workers, which is long overdue.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

10