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5 CHAIRPERSON JAMES:

6 Jack Marani?

7 MR. MARANI: Good afternoon ladies and  
8 gentlemen of the panel. My name is Jack Marani, I'm a  
9 citizen of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I'm an  
10 attorney practicing law in the Commonwealth of  
11 Massachusetts and I'm a recovering compulsive gambler.  
12 My perspective is a little different than the  
13 perspective you've heard so far today in the public  
14 side.

15 Philosophically, it seems to me that over  
16 the course of the last 150 years or so there has been a  
17 government policy regarding revenue enhancement as it  
18 goes to liquor and cigarettes. And the government  
19 continually seeks to enhance that revenue by the use of  
20 these types of activities and substances. And how long  
21 and how many people will it take to become in ill  
22 health and die, and how many families have to go on  
23 welfare because of these problems, basically generated

1 from an ill-fated policy of revenue enhancement through  
2 alcohol and cigarettes.

3           Now about 50 years behind the times,  
4 gambling is in the same type of situation. And you  
5 shouldn't be blinded by the millions and millions and  
6 billions of dollars, they should not blind you to the  
7 human element that's involved when we look towards an  
8 activity like gambling, strictly as a policy of revenue  
9 enhancement. Because what ultimately happens to the  
10 bottom part of the population that gets sucked up into  
11 the whirlpool of the excitement of gambling?

12           First and foremost, it is totally  
13 detrimental to the American way of life, it's totally  
14 detrimental to the work ethic. My father was a  
15 pipefitter and one of the things he often said to me  
16 was, Jack, you have to work eight hours for eight hours  
17 pay. And that was important to him and to other  
18 members of our family growing up. And yet that totally  
19 was lost when gambling took over.

20           And what occurs, if you want to see an  
21 impact as to gambling, go to some of the state superior  
22 courts and sit next to a wife or a husband of a person  
23 accused of embezzlement or stealing, all as a result of  
24 compulsive gambling. And look into the eyes of that

1 person, another victim of an ill-fated policy, when the  
2 government talks about the proliferation of gambling.

3 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you, Mr. Marani.

4 MR. MARANI: Thank you.