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16 CHAIRPERSON JAMES:

17 Michael Cappola.

18 MR. CAPPOLA: Good evening. My name is

19 Michael Cappola, I'm the Chairman of the Foxboro Board

20 of Selectmen, a community in Massachusetts with about

21 16,000 people and the proud hosts of the New England

22 Patriots.

23 I support the Massachusetts State Lottery,

24 as you'll probably hear most community members and

1 officials of communities because of the kinds of  
2 revenues it brings to communities that do have the  
3 restriction of Proposition 2« the tax limiting law in  
4 the State of Massachusetts. We received, last year,  
5 for instance, we received a little over a million  
6 dollars, that went into some very needed things in a  
7 community like Foxboro. And it runs the gamut from  
8 police and fire, to schools, to Council on Aging, to  
9 all the things that normally go on in a community in  
10 the State of Massachusetts.

11 I think it's important to realize, in  
12 Foxboro and I'm sure in many other communities, we are  
13 relying less and less on property taxes to fund the  
14 operations of our community. In Foxboro, 40 percent of  
15 our income is not from real estate taxes. So all of a  
16 sudden, these kinds of revenues, revenues from the  
17 Mass. Lottery, are really important to us.

18 You know, as a town official I have a  
19 concern, as I think most people do, about the  
20 compulsive gambling part of this whole discussion. And  
21 I think the speaker before me certainly pointed out  
22 that Massachusetts has a wonderful program in that  
23 regard, in the Mass. Council on Compulsive Gambling.  
24 And I think if you put it in perspective, you realize

1 that for every compulsive gambler there are thousands  
2 who are not compulsive gamblers, who enjoy that  
3 particular activity of their day or week.

4           In Massachusetts, and in Foxboro in  
5 particular, we realize that people are going to gamble,  
6 whether we have a law or not. And I would like to see  
7 it continue as a legal entity. I grew up in Boston and  
8 I remember when everybody would play the numbers and  
9 all we were doing then was supporting the racketeers.  
10 This gives us an opportunity to allow everyone to  
11 partake in this particular activity and at the same  
12 time bring back to the communities the kind of things  
13 we need.

14           So, maybe I see it a little more because I  
15 am a town official and because I am struggling on an  
16 annual basis with our budgets, as most communities and  
17 Foxboro are. And it's really important to us in the  
18 State of Massachusetts to realize that the Lottery does  
19 bring that money back to us and I would just like to go  
20 on record as supporting the Massachusetts Lottery. I  
21 think it's a model for the country and I would like to  
22 preserve it.

23           Thank you.

24           CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.