COMMISSIONER WILHELM: The last item on our agenda is the Public Comment section. Some of you have come in, I think perhaps, since I gave this speech once before, but because of the situation outside -- and I understand in the lobby as well -- the chair recommended changing the Gambling Impact Study Commission's agenda for this afternoon insofar as a number of the commissioners had to leave and a number of the scheduled witnesses were not able to come. We did, however, suspend our normal rules and the three of us that you see here stayed for the purpose of receiving testimony from those who were able to come and willing to stay, and we very much, again, appreciate all of those who have done that.

I have a list of those who were originally signed up for the Public Comment section, including both those who had been scheduled to speak and those who were on the wait list, and I understand that at least some of those individuals are here. And again, I want to assure all of you that in spite of the fact that some of our fellow commissioners are not here, that those of you who do testify in the Public Comment section, your testimony will be made available to all of the commissioners as well as to others who are interested, it will be part of the permanent record, and if you have any written testimony to submit in addition to your allocated comments, that written testimony will likewise be shared with all of the commissioners and made a part of the permanent record.

I don't want anybody to feel in the Public Comment section that the change in the procedure here will in any way diminish the value of your testimony. I personally have found
the Public Comment sections in all of the Commission's site
visits to be extremely valuable, and we very much appreciate
those of you who are here for that purpose.

I'm just going to go through the list in the order
that it was originally compiled, and if any of the people that I
call are here, I'd appreciate it when I call your name if you
would just come forward.

The Commission's normal rule -- which the Chair has
strictly adhered to -- for public comment is three minutes. I
think you may have been advised of that already. We don't
necessarily need to cut you off at the stroke of 180 seconds, as
we've done in other sessions, but I would ask you to try to
confine your comments to the three-minute period, and if you run
a little bit over, we won't get too upset.

And again, I'm just going to call these names and if
you're here, as I call your name, please just come forward. The
first person on the original list is Brenda Jean Bray.
Wonderful, the first person is here.

And I would ask each of you, to the extent that you
are with an organization or if you want to otherwise identify
yourself, please do that when you begin your comments.