advertisement of casino gambling in their states. I'm exploring that possibility in the State of Maryland.

I would like to see this Commission endorse such legislation.

Thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mr. Jameson.

MR. JAMESON: Thank you, members of the committee.

If you have this handout that I distributed to you, you'll know where I'm from, Cecil County, Maryland. It has a little map there, and we're in the top right-hand corner of the state.

I'd like to tell you that I'm a born again Christian, and that I believe in Jesus Christ, and that gambling is a waste of money and, therefore, prohibited by my faith because of stewardship.

I'm a United Methodist pastor, and I bring you greetings from our Bishop, Peter Weaver, and the Board of Church and Society of the Peninsula Delaware Annual Conference, of which I am a member, and I'm a resident of Cecil County, Maryland, and I also bring you greetings from our Cecil County commissioners.
On the second page of the document which
I've distributed, there's a letter from the county
commissioners greeting you and also a resolution that
they would like to provide for your group on the last
two pages.

I'm here because I'm besieged. We won in
1995. We won in 1996, and we won in 1997 to prevent
gambling interests from coming into our county and
into our state, and I've highlighted all of the folks
that have spoken before who are my dear friends, and
you can see a little bit of red there, and very
honestly, I love those people, but I don't want to see
them anymore because I'm tired of having to fight this
fight.

Casino America has come into Cecil County
and has spent so much money that the preachers and the
Christian people there can hardly keep up with these
people. They've made all kinds of promises. They've
gone into on a local level -- it used to be that you
could just go down to Annapolis and fight this on a
state level, but they've come into our neighborhoods
now.
They're giving money to people, such as
the Elkton Little League, gave them $500 this week and
sent a press release to the local paper. They
shuttled people into Annapolis when we had hearings in
the spring. They've been having secret meetings with
our town council.

You know, we're the last -- this is proven
because the Maryland Open Meetings Compliance Board
has made a ruling on this -- at the August 5th meeting
that they had with the town council it was against the
law.

So this is something that it is just hard
to fight these guys off. This morning when my wife
and I went for a walk, we were attacked by a dog, and
I told the lady who owned the dog, I said, "Hold your
dog. Put a leash on your dog."

Commission, I'd like to ask you: please,
put a leash on this dog. Keep them out of Cecil
County. Get some kind of recommendation to the
nation's legislators and them to put a leash on this
dog and please keep them out of Cecil County.

I have a gift for Mrs. James. This is a
video blackjack game that was made, ages five and up.
I want you to have this.

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: I think we've already
determined that the Commissioners cannot receive
gifts, and if we receive them we can't use them.

MR. JAMESON: I got this at K-Mart, and
it's by Caesar's Palace, and it says "ages 5 and up."

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: We can receive them,
we just can't use them.

Linda Smith.

MS. SMITH: I'm Linda Smith. I'm from
nearby Maryland.

The president of my community association
advised me not to come here today. He said it would
be a waste of my time and my effort. I have chosen to
disregard his advice because I believe that people who
care can make a difference in preserving or improving
the quality of life for their family, their community
and even their nation.

And, distinguished Chairwoman and
gentlemen, I know that you believe that as well or you
would not have agreed to serve on this Commission.