

1 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Ms. Carlton.

2 MS. CARLTON: Thank you. Good afternoon,  
3 Commissioners. My name is Maggie Carlton, and I'm a newly  
4 elected member of the Nevada State Senate. I'm very pleased to  
5 be here today because my husband, Merit, and our two daughters,  
6 Lucy and Gracie, make up one of the Las Vegas families that has  
7 achieved the middle class dream that is disappearing in many  
8 parts of the country today.

9 Las Vegas is one of the few places in our country  
10 where a waitress can make enough money to own a home, and that's  
11 not just true of me, it's true of the single parents that I know  
12 also. Because I have a good union job, working for an  
13 enlightened and progressive company, my husband and I are able  
14 to save so that we can send our children to college. Because I  
15 have good union health benefits, we have the peace of mind that  
16 knows that if we should have a medical emergency it will not  
17 destroy our financial security. And because I am a union  
18 waitress, I don't have to work two jobs and I can be the kind of  
19 parent that I want to be. I'm active in the Parents Advisory  
20 Committee, I'm a Girl Scout leader, and I teach Sunday school.  
21 I can also be the type of citizen that I've always wanted to be  
22 and give something back to our community. That's why I ran for  
23 the State Senate.

24 Unfortunately, not everyone in our country can say  
25 these things about their jobs. Not every family can afford to  
26 buy a home. Not all parents can send their children to college.

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS  
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

(202) 234-4433

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

www.nealrgross.com

1 Many people don't have the same security that my husband and  
2 daughters have. I know because our family hasn't always lived  
3 here in Las Vegas. We lived in Missouri for a long time before  
4 coming here. My husband works as a state parole officer, and  
5 from the time I was 16 years old I worked in restaurants for  
6 minimum wage or less. We worked hard and we managed to get by.  
7 I sometimes had to work two jobs in order to earn a full-time  
8 income, but no matter how hard we worked, we could never have  
9 provided for our family the way we can here in Las Vegas.

10 So when Merit was offered a job here, we jumped at  
11 the opportunity, and I got a job waitressing at a union casino,  
12 the Treasure Island owned by Mirage Resorts when it opened five  
13 years ago. Like a lot of other families who come to Las Vegas,  
14 we moved here because it's one of the few cities in our county,  
15 maybe the only one, where opportunity is still abundant. Since  
16 we came here just eight years ago the population of Clark County  
17 has increased by nearly half a million people. All those people  
18 came here looking for opportunity, and there would be no  
19 opportunity in Las Vegas without gaming.

20 I'm not saying that we don't have problems here.  
21 With so many new people we've had our growing pains. Like a lot  
22 of other cities, we have to improve our schools, crack down on  
23 gangs, and make sure that we have safe drinking water for our  
24 future. I welcome the opportunity to face these problems, and I  
25 wouldn't have that opportunity without a good union job in the  
26 gaming industry.

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

(202) 234-4433

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

www.nealrgross.com

1           Because it's also important for you to understand  
2 that not everyone in Las Vegas has a good job like I do, just a  
3 few miles from here there are neighborhood casinos where the  
4 maids can't afford health insurance for their families. Some  
5 casinos only let their maids work part time so they won't ever  
6 qualify for benefits, and in subcontracted restaurants right  
7 here on the strip there are dishwashers who rely on government  
8 assistance to feed their children. The difference between these  
9 dead-end jobs and a good job like my own is our union.

10           I'm sure you've read what all those bright green  
11 t-shirts say. Union and gaming together for a better life. We  
12 need gaming in Las Vegas because gaming means opportunity. And  
13 for respect, security, and the quality of life we need our  
14 union.

15           Thank you very much for inviting me to speak today.

16           CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you. In the interest of  
17 time and fairness, I'm going to ask that we reserve the  
18 applause. I want to make sure that we move through and give  
19 everyone an opportunity. But you certainly are deserving of  
20 congratulations on your recent political victory, and thank you  
21 so much for being here.

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS  
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

(202) 234-4433

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

www.nealrgross.com