

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

3 I would like to see this Commission
4 endorse such legislation.

5 Thank you for your time.

6 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mr. Jameson.

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

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

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

17 I'm a United Methodist pastor, and I bring
18 you greetings from our Bishop, Peter Weaver, and the
19 Board of Church and Society of the Peninsula Delaware
20 Annual Conference, of which I am a member, and I'm a
21 resident of Cecil County, Maryland, and I also bring
22 you greetings from our Cecil County commissioners.

1 On the second page of the document which
2 I've distributed, there's a letter from the county
3 commissioners greeting you and also a resolution that
4 they would like to provide for your group on the last
5 two pages.

6 I'm here because I'm besieged. We won in
7 1995. We won in 1996, and we won in 1997 to prevent
8 gambling interests from coming into our county and
9 into our state, and I've highlighted all of the folks
10 that have spoken before who are my dear friends, and
11 you can see a little bit of red there, and very
12 honestly, I love those people, but I don't want to see
13 them anymore because I'm tired of having to fight this
14 fight.

15 Casino America has come into Cecil County
16 and has spent so much money that the preachers and the
17 Christian people there can hardly keep up with these
18 people. They've made all kinds of promises. They've
19 gone into on a local level -- it used to be that you
20 could just go down to Annapolis and fight this on a
21 state level, but they've come into our neighborhoods
22 now.

1 They're giving money to people, such as
2 the Elkton Little League, gave them \$500 this week and
3 sent a press release to the local paper. They
4 shuttled people into Annapolis when we had hearings in
5 the spring. They've been having secret meetings with
6 our town council.

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

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

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

22 I have a gift for Mrs. James. This is a

1 video blackjack game that was made, ages five and up.

2 I want you to have this.

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

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

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

10 Linda Smith.

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

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

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