

1 right to tell an adult how to spend your entertainment
2 dollars. It would be foolish and time consuming to
3 try and do so, but we are concerned that education on
4 compulsive gambling are lacking.

5 Many of our citizens don't even realize
6 that it is an addiction and there is help.

7 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Mr. Milillo, thank you so
8 much, and we will read the rest of that as a part of
9 our deliberations.

10 Mary Jo Pierce, welcome.

11 MS. PIERCE: Hi. My name is Mary Jo
12 Pierce. Good evening, members of the --

13 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Mary Jo, I'm going to ask
14 you to pull that mike really close and speak really
15 loudly so they can hear you in the back.

16 MS. PIERCE: Okay. My name is Mary Jo
17 Pierce. Good evening, members of the Commission, and
18 thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

19 In June 1983, after leaving an abusive
20 relationship and going through a nasty divorce, my
21 parents convinced me to move to Atlantic City, New
22 Jersey. Both of them, plus three other family members

1 worked for Harrah's Casino, and they were absolutely
2 certain that I could start over, too, if I could get
3 a job at Harrah's.

4 So my two children, ages ten and seven,
5 and I drove from San Diego, California, and arrived in
6 Atlantic City on July 3rd to start our new life.

7 My parents lived in a nearby community,
8 and since I had absolutely no money, we moved in with
9 them. Instead of going on welfare or living off of my
10 parents, I was able to obtain employment at Harrah's
11 as a secretary.

12 Within two months, I was able to rent a
13 house and share household expenses with my sister and
14 her family. I saved and saved and even bought the
15 kids' clothes at a thrift store.

16 Within a year I was able to save enough
17 money to rent with the option to buy a small, three
18 bedroom house for myself and the children, and
19 eventually I did buy this home.

20 I share this story with you today because
21 I'm quite confident that I would not be able to have
22 made this new start in life if I had not found the

1 opportunities that casino employment offered me.

2 Even though we lived paycheck to paycheck,
3 we were happy, and life went on fairly secure until
4 the time came when we had to decide on college for my
5 oldest child. I had no college fund. No help was
6 offered by his father, and I was unsure of my options.

7 Then I saw a posting on our company
8 bulletin board which stated that the corporation who
9 then owned Harrah's, Promise Companies, Incorporated,
10 was offering scholarships to high school seniors with
11 the need and desire to go to college.

12 Again, Harrah's was there for me. My son
13 was awarded a four-year scholarship to a local college
14 and graduated in 1995 as the class valedictorian and
15 is currently a third year law student at Rutgers
16 University, and his career goal is to become a judge.

17 Once, again, this would not have been
18 possible if I had not been employed by Harrah's, a
19 casino.

20 Now my daughter is currently furthering
21 her education by attending the Atlantic County
22 Vocational School to be a medical assistant. She's a

1 single mother of a two year old and worked at Harrah's
2 for the past two years in the box office.

3 Her supervisor encouraged her to further
4 her education, even though it meant losing a valuable
5 employee.

6 From my perspective, Harrah's and the
7 casino industry deserves a big pat on the back for
8 giving people the opportunity to pull themselves up by
9 their bootstraps and for developing the future of our
10 young people.

11 I am a strong believer in Harrah's and in
12 the casino industry, and from my experiences, I'm sure
13 you can understand why.

14 Thanks for your time.

15 CHAIRMAN JAMES: And thank you.

16 Eustace Eggie.

17 MR. EGGIE: Yes, ma'am.

18 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.

19 MR. EGGIE: Good evening, Chairwoman James
20 and Commissioners. My name is Bud Eggie, and I
21 represent the Carpenters Local 623.

22 I would like to take this opportunity to