BEFORE THE
INDIANA GAMING COMMISSION

IN RE: THE POSSIBLE)
ISSUANCE OF A GAMING)
LICENSE FOR A RIVERBOAT)
IN MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA)

THE PUBLIC COMMENTS
VOLUME II, Pages 85 thru 147

The presentation of the City of Michigan City as had before the Indiana Gaming Commission, commencing on Monday, February 12, 1996, at or about 3:45 p.m. at the Pine Lake Hotel, 444 Pine Lake Avenue, LaPorte, Indiana.

GAMING COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

DAVID E. ROSS, JR., M.D.
ROBERT W. SUNDWICK
ANN MARIE BOCHNOWSKI
DONALD RAYMOND VOWELS
ALAN I. KLINEMAN
ROBERT SWAN
THOMAS F. MILCAREK

ORIGINAL

Also Present:

JACK THAR
Executive Director, Indiana Gaming Commission
FLOYD HANNON
Deputy Director, Indiana Gaming Commission
KAY FLEMING
Chief Legal Counsel, Indiana Gaming Commission
JANINE HOOLEY
Director of External Affairs

Members of each Applicant's Staff
Members from the General Public

Reported by:
Natalie Bearickx, CSR, Associate Reporter

1 Monday, February 12, 1996 --
2 (At or about 3:45 p.m. Gaming Commission and
3 members of the public present at the Pine
4 Lake Hotel.)
5 MR. KLINEMAN: First, I would like the
6 record to show that Commissioner Sundwick has
7 joined us. And I also have a personal
8 announcement to make. I have developed a lower
9 back problem and it's very, very comfortable for
10 me to be seated up here, maybe that's affected
11 some of my questions, I don't know. But I have
12 asked the vice chairman, Mrs. Bochnowski, take
13 over the proceedings this afternoon.
14 And I'm going to go try to stretch my back
15 out so that it gets better for tomorrow, which
16 is a very long day for us. I will, however, be
17 reviewing the videotapes and the transcript of
18 what's said here this afternoon by the public.
19 And I assure you that I personally will take
20 into consideration everything that's said here
21 even though I might not be present in person.
22 So with that I will withdraw and Mrs. Bochnowski
23 can take over.
24 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Okay. Before we start --
25 oh, I forgot to turn it on, I keep turning that

thing off -- before I start the public comment portion there are a few rules that I'd like all of the speakers to be aware of. You have a limited amount of time, which you've been informed -- five minutes, correct -- five minutes to speak. If you want -- if you think you are getting close to the end, you should take a look over at that (indicating) side. And the first card you will see is a yellow card, that means you have one minute left to speak. There it is.

The next card will be a red card and that means your time is up. If you cannot get everything that you want to say to us into a five minute period, you are more than welcome to submit your comments in writing, we do receive all of those. Everybody receives a copy of it and we will review that separately. We are just trying to be fair. So that's the way our operation has worked everywhere else and that's the way it's going to work here. All right. I guess we can go ahead and get started. Okay.

MR. THAR: What about the endorsements?

MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Pardon me.

MR. THAR: The endorsements.

1 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Okay. Right. Apparently
2 in other locations, and we didn't receive any
3 feedback from this, we have asked that comments
4 not be endorsements of particular companies, but
5 that they be comments regarding the overall
6 process or gaming in general, would that be
7 accurate? Okay. Our first speaker -- is it
8 Paul Maday, would that be right?
9 MR. MADAY: Yes.
10 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Okay. Don't worry. We
11 don't start timing you until you start speaking
12 so take your time getting up here. And if
13 anybody has any questions, please indicate and
14 we'll keep the speaker up.
15 MR. MADAY: Good afternoon, ladies and
16 gentleman, my name is Paul Maday. I'm an
17 assistant business manager of the International
18 Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Shipbuilders,
19 Blacksmiths, Forgers (phonetic) and Helpers
20 Union, Local 374, in Hammond, Indiana. The
21 local union jurisdiction encompasses the entire
22 state of Indiana so this project is extremely
23 important to every member of my craft as well as
24 every union member of the LaPorte Starke
25 Building Trades.

1 The Boilermakers support this project
2 because of the income and revenue it will
3 generate into the local economy and into the
4 wallets and households of the men and women
5 directly and indirectly related to this project.
6 And what better way to start generating that
7 income and revenue than to build the boat on
8 site, whether it be at Trail Creek or at a
9 different location or the harbor area. The
10 construction man hours on a project this size
11 are too huge to ignore.
12 By erecting the boat on site, approximately
13 300,000 man hours are required from start to
14 completion. And not only for wages in the
15 construction worker's pockets but also the
16 effect that the money will have to the rest of
17 the immediate communities and also the entire
18 geographic area. Economic research studies have
19 shown that on site development generates
20 economic impacts in the range of 22 to $25
21 million.
22 Additional impacts include approximately
23 230 direct construction jobs with a payroll of
24 $8 million and approximately $12 million in
25 direct local purchases. Steel suppliers,

1 welding supply companies, lumber yards, hardware
2 stores, crane rental and heavy equipment
3 companies are just a few examples of businesses
4 directly related to on site boat construction
5 that would profit from it. Indirect businesses
6 would also reap the rewards, the Dunkin Donuts
7 and the mom and pop restaurants that serve
8 breakfast every morning, the sandwich shops and
9 fast foods restaurants at lunch, the local
10 taverns, liquor stores, mini-marts and gas
11 stations that are in the area would also reap
12 these benefits; results will be seen
13 immediately.
14 Since the shipbuilding industry requires
15 some specialized crafts, engineering and
16 construction management, a portion of this labor
17 force will be drawn from other parts of the
18 country. In Elgin, Illinois, for example, where
19 the Grand Victoria was built on site, members of
20 the administrative staff spent approximately $1
21 million for housing, food and entertainment.
22 The construction workers spent approximately $2
23 million in local hotels and apartments, eating
24 and entertainment establishments.
25 Although these statistics may vary between

1 the size of the project and location, the intent
2 is clearly evident, jobs and immediate positive
3 stimulation of the local economy. The
4 boilermakers also are aware that some casino
5 gambling boats have recently had to close their
6 doors for different reasons and now sit idle and
7 wait to be towed to different locations.
8 These boats are attractive because they
9 need in most cases little or no modifications
10 and are basically ready for business shortly
11 after they would arrive. We feel that these
12 should serve only as a temporary facility until
13 the completion of the on site built vessel. In
14 conclusion I would like to urge the recipient of
15 this gaming license to build a boat on site
16 using union building trades. However, if an
17 existing boat be used, we urge that any and all
18 modifications to it and all structures and
19 buildings that will surround it be built by
20 union tradesmen. Thank you.
21 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much.
22 Okay. Rebecca Williams is next on the list.
23 MS. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon. My name is
24 Rebecca Williams. I would first like to thank
25 you for giving me the opportunity to speak on

1 behalf the group that I represent. I have been
2 a resident of Michigan City for 37 years. I
3 have witnessed many progressive changes take
4 place in this community. One unfortunate
5 condition that still remains is the lack of
6 involvement from within the African American
7 Community in the area of economic development
8 and long range strategic planning sessions that
9 we could use in aiding to chart out our own
10 destiny.
11 I would like to begin my presentation by
12 saying that I voted against the gaming
13 referendum. I remember the lesson taught by
14 cities like Sodom and Gomorrah. Gambling to me
15 is a moral issue. My feelings are still the
16 same but it would be equally wrong due to the
17 realities of what soon will be potentially one
18 of the largest industries in the state of
19 Indiana for us not to step forward and involve
20 ourselves.
21 The African American community is losing on
22 many fronts, the war on crime, the war on drugs
23 and the war for self-determination aside from
24 personal -- we have submitted letters to three
25 casino developers requesting that the successful

1 applicant involve us as owners and investors, we
2 received two responses.
3 Aside from personal gratification and the
4 additional revenues these dollars will generate
5 in the community of Michigan City each person is
6 committed to reinvest a percentage of their
7 earnings into economic development --
8 development ventures that will aid in the
9 employment, education and training of our
10 people.
11 How can we be respected as adults when
12 constantly we go to others in our time of need?
13 Every other group in this country has resources
14 available to support the employment of some of
15 their own. We still remain in a position of
16 dependency. There was a court -- a court case
17 called Ging Poo v. Hopkins (phonetic) in the
18 city of San Francisco in 1896. The Chinese
19 Americans were not allowed to receive a laundry
20 license to operate a laundry even though they
21 were employed in the industry. This case went
22 to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court
23 supported Ging Poo's position. Ging Poo showed
24 that the city of San Francisco denied a race of
25 people the right to provide for themselves.

1 We're requesting that the Gaming Commission
2 support us in this effort by issuing a license
3 to the company that will include African
4 Americans as owners and investors. Thank you.
5 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much.
6 Herbert Lasser.
7 MR. LASSER: Ladies and gentlemen, I, too,
8 thank you for the opportunity. My comments to
9 the commission are submitted as a property owner
10 in the city of Portage, Porter County, Indiana,
11 where a referendum for riverboat gambling in the
12 county was defeated in November of 1993.
13 Burns Harbor Development Group, of which I
14 am a partner, owns 120 acres of land adjacent to
15 the Little Calumet River with a 635 boat marina
16 approved by the Indiana DNR and the U.S. Army
17 Corp of Engineers, which states my interest.
18 Indiana's riverboat gaming laws originally
19 enacted contemplated that the fifth license on
20 Lake Michigan was to be awarded to Michigan
21 City, Portage, Gary, Hammond or East Chicago.
22 However, the 1995 legislature amended Indiana
23 Code 4336-1 provides that the fifth license be
24 issued to only Michigan City or Portage. The
25 original law as set forth in the special session

1 overriding the governor's veto allowed a special
2 election in 1995 if an applicant for a river --
3 riverboat license paid in advance of the
4 election the amount that was the difference of
5 the cost to hold a special election and the cost
6 to hold a municipal election. That special
7 legislation expired on January 1st, 1996, just a
8 month or so ago.
9 The law, both as originally written and as
10 amended, provides that if a public question is
11 defeated, another public question may not be
12 held in that county for at least two years,
13 which means that Portage's first opportunity for
14 a second referendum was in November of last
15 year. Based on the laws amended, Portage's
16 first opportunity for a second referendum vote
17 was November of 1995 and then only if an
18 applicant paid the cost of the election in
19 advance.
20 On or about July 6th, 1995, the Porter
21 County Election Board determined the additional
22 cost to place the question on the ballet in
23 November of 1995 would be $122,100. The first
24 opportunity that the voters of Porter County
25 would have to have a second referendum election

1 without an applicant or payment of additional
2 cost at a general election would be November 5th
3 of 1996 on condition that the public question is
4 certified to the election board no later than
5 noon on August 1st of 1996.
6 It would appear that it was the intent of
7 the legislature by its 1995 amendment to isolate
8 the fifth Lake Michigan riverboat gaming license
9 to Michigan City or Portage with preference to
10 neither, which legislative intent would be
11 frustrated if this Gaming Commission were to
12 issue a certificate of suitability to an
13 applicant for Michigan City without at least
14 waiting until August 1st, 1996, to see if the
15 city of Portage takes the initiative to certify
16 the question to the election board until after
17 November 5th, 1996, if, in fact, the voters of
18 Porter County vote affirmatively.
19 The voters of Porter County should have an
20 opportunity to objectively entertain proposals
21 from any interested applicant. Any delay
22 occasion by deferral of issuance of a
23 certificate of suitability would certainly be
24 justified by the enhancement of a more
25 competitive bidding environment for the benefit

1 of the community that ultimately prevails,
2 whether it be the city of Portage or the city of
3 Michigan City.
4 Your consideration will be very much
5 appreciated by myself as a single property owner
6 and the city of Portage as well as all others in
7 that city and the county of Porter who would
8 benefit by the ultimate issuance of a riverboat
9 license. I thank you.
10 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much.
11 Jerel Millard.
12 MR. MILLARD: Good afternoon. Thank you
13 for the opportunity to speak. My name is Jerry
14 Millard, I'm the business manager of the
15 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers,
16 Local Union 531, and vice president of the
17 LaPorte Starke Pulaski Building Trades so you
18 know where my interests are, they are in jobs,
19 especially in construction first and ongoing
20 jobs in the future.
21 I served as co-chairman of the Job Yes
22 Coalition which was formed back in August, 1993,
23 to work for passage of the gambling referendum.
24 And I'm here to tell you that it was the men and
25 the women of the organized labor who did the

1 biggest part of that campaign.
2 While the president of the Chamber of
3 Commerce and I worked closely together during
4 the campaign, I have got to tell you that most
5 of the meetings at the job coalition, the
6 turnout was 95 percent organized labor. So you
7 can imagine how disturbed I was and others in
8 the organized labor to be completely bypassed
9 for the participation of the riverboat committee
10 of the 22 members representing all facets of the
11 city.
12 Somehow we were good enough to ask for the
13 money and take the time to get volunteers back
14 in '93 but not good enough to make the selection
15 of the company. As you know, union labor is
16 firmly behind the concept of a riverboat. As
17 former chairman of the Jobs Coalition and
18 hundreds of other volunteers had a lot of hours
19 to pass the referendum, I cannot stress
20 enough how important it is that you grant the
21 license to Michigan City and do it soon.
22 By most accounts there will be about a two
23 year opportunity before the Indians get their
24 casino up and running in Michigan. Many of us
25 believe that the Michigan City riverboat, if

1 licensed soon, can get up and going, carve out a
2 respectable share of the market and develop good
3 customer loyalties before the Indians come on
4 line. Let's not make it look like Custer's last
5 stand, let's act before we have to react.
6 Obviously tying in the riverboat with some
7 of the existing attractions like Light House
8 Mall makes a lot of sense to us. The Light
9 House Mall was originally built or financed by
10 union labor to built 100 percent by unions.
11 It's going to take something special to lure the
12 patrons in off the interstate, we have got to
13 give them a reason to patronize us. Shop and
14 stay programs that feature gaming and other
15 entertainments make a lot of sense. And who
16 could beat to stay in a hotel where you're out
17 looking over your -- when you wake up in the
18 morning and you are looking over the beautiful
19 harbor and the light house. Michigan City and
20 LaPorte County could be a successful gaming
21 location if you give us the tools to do it
22 right. Grant the license soon and grant it in
23 the harbor right next to the Light House Mall.
24 Thank you.
25 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much. And

1 Marlow Harmon. Be careful, everybody, there's a
2 lot of wires around here.
3 MR. HARMON: Good afternoon. My name is
4 Marlow Harmon. I was recently re-elected to a
5 second term as councilman representing the sixth
6 ward in Michigan City. I'm a retired Michigan
7 City police officer having served 20 years on
8 the force. I was elected president of city of
9 Michigan City Council in 1993 and was in that
10 position when we passed the docking ordinance
11 that started the process of riverboat gaming.
12 I am a very firm believer in the potential
13 of riverboat development. I have some real
14 problems with our local evaluation process and
15 the end results. The process that we followed
16 as a committee was good. And many important
17 questions were answered by the three riverboat
18 applicants, many promises were made and
19 hopefully if Michigan City is awarded the
20 license, those promises will be kept.
21 My biggest concern about the applicants was
22 the failures or misfortunes they have
23 experienced prior to coming to Michigan City.
24 The consultants never addressed those issues,
25 and most of the committee members seemed to

1 ignore those issues. I believe the applicants
2 should have been more open and honest with the
3 evaluation committee about their past negative
4 experiences, and I'm sure you will look into
5 those issues more closely than what we were able
6 to.
7 I also have a problem with the site
8 selection. Former Mayor Behler and much of the
9 city's staff was supportive of the bank owned
10 site on Trail Creek from the moment riverboat
11 gaming was legalized in Indiana. There was
12 never any discussion by the former mayor or his
13 staff about any other site for the project other
14 than Trail Creek. All riverboat developers who
15 came into town were told that the bank owned
16 site was the city's preferred site. Both our
17 previous and current mayor have always been pro
18 bank sites.
19 I understand that the bank is a big power
20 in our city and they wheel a lot of clout. I
21 think it's no accident that all of these mayor's
22 appointees to the local evaluation committee
23 were pro bank site, there is nothing sinister
24 about that, it's just the way it was. You tend
25 to point to those who think like you do and I

1 think that's what they did. Unfortunately,
2 however, other sites did not get a fair hearing.
3 For example, Mayor Behler never asked the
4 city's consultants to compare the pros and cons
5 of the two sites before asking the committee to
6 take a vote. We paid those consultants
7 thousands of dollars and not one dime or one
8 minute of the committee's time was spent talking
9 over the positive and the negative aspects of
10 each site. I will be honest with you, I think
11 the comparison between the harbor site and the
12 bank owned site on Trail Creek never had a fair
13 hearing on a level playing field. I hope that
14 your commission can give this site issue and
15 fair hearing.
16 I understand that there is a new poll out
17 that shows what some of us have been saying for
18 a long time, the public knows better and wants
19 it built down at the harbor. Knowing that
20 having it next to the Light House Place means it
21 can better compete with the Indians and it can
22 compete with other boats in Northwest Indiana.
23 More than anything I want this development to be
24 successful and to generate jobs and permanent
25 economic development for the people of Michigan

City and LaPorte County. Let's listen to the people of LaPorte County, they know our riverboat belongs in the harbor where it can best attract visitors and compete successfully for many years to come.

I have one additional comment to make, I was very surprised and a little bit upset to hear Mayor Bergerson announce for the first time this morning the so called deal with NIPSCO. At the last local evaluation committee meeting a representative of NIPSCO was there and told the committee that it was NIPSCO's plans to stay out of any discussions about the use of its sites until after the Indiana Gaming Commission had awarded a license to Michigan City.

If the city had not caused NIPSCO to change its position, then the city had to intervene in a way that restricts competition and reduces some of the options that the Gaming Commission has for the location of this project. Let it be clear this could be viewed as an attempt by the city to once again not allow a fair debate to occur -- occur between the two sites. Thank you.

MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much.

1 Carla Filipiak. I certainly hope I'm
2 pronouncing your name correctly, I'm trying.
3 MS. FILIPIAK: You did a good job with
4 mine, it's difficult. My name is Carla
5 Filipiak, and I am a resident of the town of
6 Long Beach within LaPorte County. I was one of
7 those interested citizens who read all of the
8 newspaper articles about the upcoming local
9 riverboat evaluation process, and I decided to
10 see for myself what was going on.
11 I attended several of their meetings and to
12 be honest what I saw wasn't terribly encouraging
13 to me. I would like to express my concerns
14 about what I observed at these meetings. It
15 seems that whoever was going to pander most to
16 the committee did best, tell them what you think
17 they wanted to hear rather than what you really
18 believe.
19 Case in point, completely forgotten is that
20 all three companies have sites on the harbor,
21 two of them supposedly temporary. Two of the
22 companies promised they would get the necessary
23 permits within 30 to 60 days of licensing while
24 the third said, I quote, "We're not going to
25 mislead you. Based on our experience in

1 Evansville it will take at least nine months to
2 get the Corp of Engineers' approval at the
3 NIPSCO site."
4 Never behind that Michigan City's harbor
5 master, Mr. Rudisell, was quoted in the South
6 Bend paper agreeing with that company about the
7 likely delays. That same company got punished
8 for being honest with the committee and actually
9 had points deducted for a later opening date.
10 Another case in point, the companies are
11 told at the last minute, throw away your
12 community incentive plans and give back an even
13 higher percentage of revenue than the 5 percent
14 set by law to city government, two of the
15 companies did this, only one company stood by
16 its plan and committed money to various
17 community development groups and revenue sharing
18 to other cities and towns in the county. As a
19 resident of Long Beach which stands to benefit,
20 I like this idea. All residents in the county
21 were given the opportunity to vote on the
22 referendum to begin the project, we should all
23 benefit from its volition.
24 Final case in point is location, it's clear
25 the committee wanted redevelopment of the upper

1 creek area, who doesn't, that doesn't mean that
2 is where the riverboat should go, though. Two
3 of the companies claim they will only be on the
4 harbor temporarily. Those two pacified the
5 committee by saying they will move upcreek at
6 the earliest opportunity, yet only one company
7 had the guts to tell the committee, look, we
8 have budgeted money to assist Trail Creek
9 redevelopment but it's not the place for a
10 riverboat, it can't cruise up there, and besides
11 it's away from the action which is near Light
12 House Place and the lake.
13 This company's partner knows a thing or two
14 about picking location but who gets punished for
15 sticking to their guns and not pandering and
16 saying anything to win votes, that same company.
17 The harbor and our lakefront is the pride
18 of the city, in my opinion it is the best spot
19 for a riverboat. If there were points for being
20 candid and honest with the committee, maybe the
21 results would have been different. As it was,
22 one company got punished for being honest with
23 the committee, and I hope that you don't let
24 that happen again. Thank you for granting me
25 time to speak.

1 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much.
2 MS. FILIPIAK: Thank you.
3 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Doug Bernacchi.
4 MR. BERNACCHI: I thank you for having me
5 here at this historic meeting of your commission
6 in LaPorte County. I thought earlier you said
7 there were too many lawyers in the and not wires
8 in the room.
9 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: I've been known to say
10 things like that.
11 MR. BERNACCHI: As I said, my name is Doug
12 Bernacchi. I was born and raised in LaPorte,
13 graduated from LaPorte High School. I'm deeply
14 rooted in this community. I live in Long beach,
15 as the previous speaker. I'm the town attorney
16 for the town of Michiana Shores, which is
17 another community in LaPorte County. And my law
18 practice, private law practice, is in Michigan
19 City, Indiana. My clientele consists primarily
20 of farm clients, having grown up in a farm
21 family deeply rooted in this county.
22 Some points I would like to make for the
23 record, first of all, I think -- I disagree with
24 the gentleman from Porter County. I think
25 LaPorte County has spoken. The riverboat gaming

1 offers promise of jobs, tax revenues and
2 positive economic impact to Michigan City and
3 LaPorte County in general and it's not just for
4 the short-term and for the construction jobs but
5 for the long-term. And I certainly encourage
6 you all to award the license to this county.
7 Second, the potential for riverboat
8 gambling and gaming can only be realized if the
9 riverboat project can effectively compete with
10 all of the ready existing gaming in Las Vegas,
11 in Atlantic City, in Illinois, in Iowa, down in
12 Mississippi and, of course, in Southwestern
13 Michigan when that comes on line.
14 I think that -- I don't have my watch with
15 me and I want to use all my time -- but I think
16 that I can summarize pretty much my comments
17 today with one analogy and that's if we have two
18 horses in Michigan City, we have $1,000 horse
19 and we have a $10 horse, I think your job is to
20 decide where we are going to put our thousand
21 dollar saddle. Are we going to put our $1,000
22 saddle on the $1,000 horse or the $10 horse, to
23 me it's a very clear choice.
24 We have a very unique opportunity in
25 Michigan City, the beauty of it is the site on

1 the creek -- I mean the site -- not on the
2 creek, on the harbor -- we have an opportunity
3 to cruise on Lake Michigan. If you go upcreek
4 today, I'm sure you saw all of those boats in
5 storage. There are a lot of boats in storage.
6 There's a boating activity going on upcreek
7 right now. Those boats in storage are going to
8 have to be displaced if you put a development
9 there. Sure, three months out of the year there
10 are other boaters using the harbor, it will not
11 be too congested.
12 The beauty is we can comply with the
13 statutes and cruise on Lake Michigan. The key
14 issue, the competition to me would seem to be
15 that we choose a site that is most competitive.
16 Which brings me then to the following points I
17 would like to make and observations that I have
18 on both sites. The pros of the harbor site, the
19 boat can cruise on Lake Michigan as yet may be
20 required by law. The project can get open
21 quicker, as proven by the fact that all three
22 applicants have proposed their initial projects
23 there.
24 If the upstream site were so good, why
25 don't the two companies who say they want to be

there put their temporary facilities there as well, why, it's not feasible. They know that they can be up and running much quicker in the harbor and that's key to the competitiveness that we need in Michigan City.

Good road access and railroad access to the site are already in place at the harbor, there's the perfect tie-in of Light House Place Outlet and the complex which already has two and a half million patrons. The area where I represent -- Long Beach -- where I represent Michiana Shores and where I live in Long Beach has a lot of out of state residents. I probably have more friends who have Illinois permanent addresses than Indiana as a result of where I live and reside. And I can tell you that these people come here and they really appreciate the shopping that we have and the activities that we provide. I consider myself a steward of this community for the Illinois people who come here in the summertime and they are quite extensive.

There is no dredging that would be required, and minimal environmental impact would take place if we use our beautiful harbor. The nice tie-in there is with the Amtrak railroad

1 that connects Chicago and Detroit, and it may be
2 an opportunity for us to improve our South Shore
3 service, which I took myself many years to
4 Chicago. The better -- it would be a much
5 better location for the hotel looking out over
6 the water.
7 If you consider this as a destination, you
8 must keep in mind that I've always said if all
9 three of these proposals were allowed to
10 compete, which one would do the best and I think
11 that's the choice. If all three were here,
12 which would be number one? I think the $1,000
13 saddle and the $1,000 horse is clear.
14 Potential problems with the bank site on
15 Trail Creek, it will take much longer to
16 construct. You can't cruise on Lake Michigan
17 because of that bridge. There is significant
18 dredging and environmental impact and the
19 proposals that would further --
20 MR. HANNON: Your time is up.
21 MR. BERNACCHI: Okay.
22 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: If you would like to
23 submit those comments in writing, we'll make
24 sure that everybody gets to see your entire
25 text.

1 MR. BERNACCHI: Well, I just have one last
2 thing that I'd like to present on what I have.
3 They are excerpts from the presentation of the
4 NIPSCO people, who I sat next to at the Michigan
5 City hearing, and they said that they did not
6 want their site to affect the impact of your
7 decision. And I have their quotes right here.
8 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: That would be nice if you
9 would submit those right over there, that would
10 be great. Okay. And Willie Milsap would be
11 next. Thank you very much, Mr. Bernacchi.
12 MR. MILSAP: Good afternoon. My name is
13 Willie Milsap, secretary vice president of
14 LaPorte County NAACP. I would like to thank you
15 for giving me the opportunity to speak to you
16 today. Our organization met a week ago, and
17 there was some serious concerns brought up that
18 I would like to share with you. First of all,
19 we encourage you to grant a license in Michigan
20 City, as we feel that it would greatly benefit
21 us in reference to economic development.
22 Whichever organization you decide on to do
23 the gaming operations in our community, we feel
24 that there is some features that you should
25 focus on in their proposals. One feature we

1 feel is very important is a strong proposal for
2 minority and women owned businesses. We feel
3 that whichever developer's proposal that
4 addresses that concern should be looked at
5 closely. We feel that the proposal should have
6 a strong program that would help minority
7 businesses get off the ground maybe on a
8 prefunded basis to give them startup funds to
9 get them off the ground to work strongly with
10 the community.
11 We also feel that whichever developer you
12 choose should have a strong scholarship program
13 for disadvantaged youths. We feel that the
14 program should also contain something in
15 reference to housing, maybe a program that will
16 help people who cannot afford housing generate
17 funds to gain ownership of housing. Another
18 item that we feel is very important regardless
19 of the location that you decide, Trail Creek or
20 the harbor, we feel that Trail Creek should have
21 some type of development funding to help develop
22 that area. Thank you.
23 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much.
24 Jerry Cooley.
25 MR. COOLEY: Hello and good afternoon. My

1 name is Jerry Cooley, and I'm president of the
2 LaPorte County Building Trades. I'm past
3 president of LaPorte County Town Council, and
4 I'm employed by the Northwest Indiana District
5 Council of Carpenters. And we have been
6 involved in this ever since the beginning of
7 this. We have been asked to have a lot of input
8 from the start, and we have some strong feelings
9 about it.
10 I wish I would have talked to Mr. Millard
11 before I came in today because sometimes our
12 paths don't cross. He's vice president of
13 building trades and I'm president, and we both
14 have feelings about what's happening on this
15 whole ordeal about the gaming. The one thing
16 that labor is very concerned about is the
17 complete failure of the former mayor of Michigan
18 City not to include us in representation on the
19 -- from organized labor and the local decision
20 making. When this started in 1993, we were all
21 good enough to be on the front line getting
22 people out to vote, and labor was there 10 to 1,
23 to anyone, we were there.
24 We had meetings with the chambers, we had
25 meetings with a lot of the different business

1 people that didn't belong to the chambers and we
2 were always there. We were the ones out on the
3 front fighting for this license because we
4 wanted jobs. We weren't necessarily involved in
5 the -- and I don't know if I even believe in
6 having the gambling on my back door -- but we
7 want jobs because in LaPorte County all we cared
8 about was the jobs.
9 I believe if it wasn't for organized labor,
10 that we wouldn't be here today talking about
11 this because of the 200 and some votes that was
12 involved -- we were there to hammer on doors and
13 make telephone calls. All we cared about was
14 one thing, good paying jobs for the people of
15 LaPorte County. And all we wanted from the
16 developers was insurance that labor would be
17 given a fair deal.
18 On the December 6th meeting of the last
19 committee that met in Michigan City, several of
20 our members asked to speak and they were even
21 denied to speak at the meeting. I want to make
22 sure that the commission receives a copy of the
23 editorial that ran in the Post Tribune on
24 December 13th.
25 The paper understood the local evaluation

1 process of Michigan City left doubt, and the
2 paper made valuable points. I want to give this
3 board a copy of it and I have it here to hand to
4 you today. We are here today to ask the council
5 when they make their decision to get a guarantee
6 from the developers that they will employ local
7 contractors that pay good union wages on their
8 projects and that they -- that when they are --
9 when -- and then when the going gets tough when
10 the Indians come in, which I'm not afraid of the
11 Indians, that they are -- that they don't
12 abandon the community and leave us like other
13 communities that have been left and that they
14 keep their word about building everything they
15 promised. That's real important to our
16 community, I believe, that they keep their
17 promises on this and employ the people of
18 LaPorte County with good paying jobs as they
19 promised.
20 We asked at the beginning that the
21 developers sign agreements with organized labor
22 to hire all union contractors and when the
23 project was completed, that they would organize
24 under the AFL and CIO to guaranty the good
25 paying jobs that they were saying they were

1 going to offer us. At this time -- at this time
2 only one has even talked to us about using 100
3 percent union, which is the Michigan City Casino
4 and Lodge. And I wonder why this would be a
5 problem because when it came to us for the help,
6 for the approval, they would say anything, and
7 I'm telling you anything.
8 I heard stories that they were going to
9 build all kinds of stuff and now it's not there.
10 Plus don't forget on November the 2nd, 1993, the
11 promise they gave us was jobs and that's what
12 we're asking for is jobs. So get that guaranty
13 from them because we were never there on board
14 to get it ourselves. Thank you.
15 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you. Just submit
16 those to the side table there and I'm sure we'll
17 all get copies. Okay. John Wolf. Thank you
18 very much.
19 MR. WOLF: Ms. Bochnowski and members of
20 the commission, I'm John Wolf from Valparaiso.
21 I'm coordinator of the state coalition against
22 legalized gambling. I believe the speakers
23 prior to this have all been in favor and I'm
24 speaking on the other side. Indiana Coalition
25 is a volunteer organization of citizens

1 resisting the spread of legalized gambling in
2 the state.
3 Recent referendum victories employed in
4 Clark County are indications that this problem
5 will not be resolved. The citizens of Indiana
6 have the right to statewide referendum on the
7 casino issues. We urge the Gaming Commission to
8 grant no license to Michigan City or to the
9 remaining vacancy on the Ohio River or Lake
10 Patoka (phonetic).
11 We understand that the law allows up to 11
12 licenses, and we agree with the Indiana
13 commission. In this morning's paper in Michigan
14 City, there is nothing in stone that says
15 Michigan City needs a casino. Our reasons for
16 rejecting any license in Michigan City are as
17 follows, taken together, the citizens of Porter
18 and LaPorte Counties overwhelmingly rejected
19 casinos. The Porter County vote against was
20 20,790; for, 15,186. The LaPorte County vote
21 against was 12,212 and for, 12,445, a difference
22 of 233. The total vote against was 27,631 or a
23 margin of 5,331 against.
24 Porter County is only six miles from
25 Michigan City and the saturation of casinos in

1 Northwest Indiana means that instead of fleecing
2 tourists, a casino in Michigan City will prey
3 mainly on the citizens of Porter and LaPorte
4 Counties. The promises of the gambling
5 enterprise are effusive, the costs must be
6 addressed, and these costs include, the negative
7 impact on youth and families; two, the gambling
8 tendency to encourage false hopes for wealth
9 while profiting from the losses of low income
10 people; three, the potential for corruption of
11 city governments to make deals with potential
12 licensees, and we have heard about that already
13 this afternoon; unreliability of revenue and
14 jobs, as casinos act like a giant sucking
15 machine with negative impact on other businesses
16 where jobs will be lost, we understand 1.7
17 according to every job gained; and the revenue
18 decreased including places like Light House
19 Mall; finally, the rise of compulsive and
20 problem gamblers who are the life blood of the
21 gambling enterprise.
22 We respectfully remind the commission that
23 LaPorte and Porter Counties are not depressed
24 areas like Gary. We have high standards of work
25 ethic and role models for youth. Gambling is a

1 menace and a vice. We ask you to reject all
2 applicants, allow us to develop our families and
3 our economy without this predatory monster. And
4 I thank you very much for the time.
5 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you, sir. Ron
6 Kniola, I believe it's K-n-i-o-l-a. He's not
7 here. The next person would be Nolah Nasser.
8 MS. NASSER: Good afternoon. I come before
9 you today as a member of the business community
10 and a member of the board of directors of the
11 Michigan City area Chamber of Commerce. And I
12 am not a lifelong resident of Michigan City. I
13 moved here 30 years ago from a large city in
14 Michigan, and at that time I decided to
15 volunteer my time and any talents I might have
16 had to my new hometown wherever they could be
17 useful. And because of this I have had the
18 opportunity over the years to work with many
19 people and many organizations in this community.
20 Michigan City is a solid community with
21 great pride in its history and a strong interest
22 in its future. And I would like to tell you a
23 little bit about a criteria that I feel is very
24 important for the successful Michigan City
25 applicant. Because of my association with the

1 Chamber of Commerce, I have the opportunity to
2 see new businesses move into our community, and
3 most of them are good employers paying honest
4 wages and providing adequate benefits for their
5 employees. However, not all of them possess the
6 key ingredient that is needed to make a
7 commitment to become good citizens of our
8 community. They have not made an effort to
9 become a thread woven in the unique tapestry
10 that makes Michigan City the city that it is.
11 I know that I want a casino with a proven
12 track record in the business, we all do, a
13 strong financial plan and a strong financial
14 base and several years of experience in the
15 gaming industry. I also want a casino who is
16 going to make a commitment to become involved in
17 all aspects of our city who supports the
18 community, not only with their monetary
19 donations but by also giving their time and
20 being active in the civic, the community
21 service, the education and, yes, the Chamber of
22 Commerce.
23 I want someone who is going to give of
24 themselves with no guaranties for additional
25 profit, no strings attached in participation, a

1 company who makes a commitment to become a good
2 neighbor citizen for our entire community. Our
3 community needs a company who joins and becomes
4 active with the main street association, the
5 rotary exchange club program, one who actively
6 participates in our junior achievement program,
7 the United Way campaign, Christmas in April, the
8 inner city sports programs and all of the dozens
9 of opportunities that are here, and I don't want
10 them to do that just by monetary donations.
11 But most important I want them to have an
12 interest in our entire community and in giving
13 their time to our community. I want a company
14 who is going to be an ambassador within the
15 community working with Michigan to and I quote,
16 "Make it the place to be now and especially in
17 the future." There is only one applicant before
18 you today who has spent the last two years doing
19 just that. They have given of themselves to the
20 entire community with no guaranties they are
21 going to receive a license. They are being a
22 good neighbor citizen because that's the type of
23 commitment they make everywhere they do
24 business, and there's no strings attached for
25 their participation. They are just the thread

1 woven together to help Michigan City do the best
2 job they can for all of their citizens. And I
3 thank you for your time.
4 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much.
5 Okay. Terrye Mansfield.
6 MS. MANSFIELD: Good afternoon, ladies and
7 gentlemen of the Gaming Commission. My name is
8 Terrye Mansfield, and I love Michigan City. I
9 can speak poetic and have about Michigan City
10 and LaPorte County, the beautiful lakefront,
11 cultural activities, museums and its fine
12 people. I think that it's the best place in the
13 world to live and raise a family. I was born
14 and raised in Michigan City. My husband, Greg,
15 was born and raised in Michigan City and we have
16 raised our five sons in Michigan City. We think
17 that it will be the place where our
18 grandchildren are born and raised.
19 One of the wonderful attributes of our
20 community and area is its many fine volunteers
21 and the organizations with which they are
22 involved. As an active volunteer for over 20
23 years in many county and community organizations
24 I feel very strongly about the support given to
25 these nonprofits by our business community,

1 without this support many of these wonderful
2 groups would falter, because of the support many
3 groups flourish.
4 One of the applicants for the local gaming
5 license has been in Michigan City for the past
6 two years and has certainly helped many
7 organizations flourish because during that time
8 the company has made more than 94 separate
9 donations to local organizations, clubs,
10 charities, et cetera. Many also benefitted from
11 the time and talent generously supplied by this
12 company's local representative. The company's
13 support of Michigan City's nonprofit community
14 has been nothing short of phenomenal. Wondering
15 if this generosity was only part of the
16 prelicense process, I decided to check out the
17 other company locations which are in the South.
18 I called each location and requested
19 information on the support and involvement they
20 provide to their local nonprofit communities,
21 frankly I was shocked. Here's (indicating) the
22 response. Altogether I received 48 faxed pages
23 outlining monetary contributions totaling
24 more than $2,074,000. By the way, there was no
25 agreement to return money to these communities,

1 this was done on their on volition.
2 More importantly the volunteer involvement
3 of just the upper management included over 147
4 clubs, organizations, societies or associations.
5 Each location said that to list the involvement
6 of all their employees would take a tremendous
7 amount of time and fax paper, which I had
8 neither of. It became very clear to me that
9 this company encourages a very strong sense of
10 commitment to the communities in which each
11 casino business is located, what a magnificent
12 company.
13 I realized that the purpose of any business
14 is to make a profit to support its investors.
15 Good companies accomplish that purpose, however,
16 it is an exceptional company that makes a profit
17 for its investors and is a caring part of its
18 community. Obviously this is just such a
19 company, one which will improve not just the
20 economic structure of Michigan City but its
21 morale structure as well.
22 Last Friday my grandmother celebrated her
23 89th birthday. As well as being the handsomest
24 89-year-old woman I know, she is also the
25 wisest. Advice from her has helped me gain

1 perspective on many situations throughout my
2 life. Water seeps its own level is a homily
3 that she frequently used. I was in my 20s
4 before I realized just exactly how true this
5 saying is. It is true as for businesses and
6 communities as it is for individuals. Just as a
7 person's family and friends reflect on that
8 person, the quality of a business' personnel
9 reflect directly on the business, and the
10 quality of the elected officials to serve a
11 community reflect on that community.
12 A decision that will have a major impact on
13 our community will be made by the members of
14 this commission. You will determine the "water
15 level" quote/unquote for Michigan City's gaming
16 license, if we receive a license. That being
17 the case, please look at this company's people
18 and at the high level of involvement displayed
19 in their respective communities.
20 I believe that Michigan City deserves the
21 caliber of businesses they personify. I and
22 many people that I represent here today hope you
23 believe we deserve to have company as a part of
24 our community. We also hope that you will
25 demonstrate that belief by rewarding the license

1 to them. Thank you.
2 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: You can -- I appreciate --
3 I understand that some of you have changed the
4 names of the company to this company based on my
5 admonition. If you want to submit your original
6 text, you can do so. All right. Thank you.
7 Jack Arnett.
8 MR. ARNETT: Good afternoon. My name is
9 Jack Arnett, and I'm president of the LaPorte
10 County Labor Coalition. Our coalition is a
11 group of union officers of major unions and
12 locals in LaPorte County representing thousands
13 of workers in this county. I came here today to
14 express on the record our concern about the
15 outcome of the local evaluation process, a
16 process we had absolutely no input on.
17 When it came to doing the heavy lifting
18 during the referendum, it was organized labor
19 that was called on to provide the bulk of the
20 volunteers, and yet we were refused our efforts
21 to gain representation on the local committee.
22 Perhaps it's just as well because I'm not sure
23 that organized labor wanted to be connected with
24 this process they called an evaluation process
25 here in Michigan City.

1 I did some checking with union leaders in
2 other parts of the state and did some
3 comparisons. For instance, while the local
4 committee met only four times in Michigan City,
5 committees in places like Lawrenceburg and
6 Evansville met dozens of times. They had all
7 kinds of specialists helping them from auditors
8 to attorneys. The so called development
9 agreements that were negotiated in the final 24
10 hours before the last local committee meeting
11 held on December 6th, there wasn't even time to
12 provide copies to the committee members before
13 they voted, several of the committee members
14 complained about that.
15 Even though the city had been working with
16 these companies for years, at the very last
17 minute there were demands made on the companies
18 to throw out their incentive plans and simply
19 give the city a percentage gross instead, this
20 was absolutely unfair to any company that had
21 spent time and effort putting together a good
22 incentive plan.
23 I did some checking and I found out in
24 every community that had a local endorsement
25 process there was some opportunity for open

1 public comment, this wasn't the case in Michigan
2 City. Several people, including myself, were
3 stopped from making comments at the final
4 meeting on December 6th. I was upset that
5 information was given to the committee at the
6 11th hour. For instance, the day before the
7 final committee meeting the committee's
8 endorsement applicant, Blue Chip, closed its
9 only boat in Illinois, shouldn't that have set
10 off some alarm bells? The endorsement came
11 weeks before 200 of the boat workers brought
12 suit in federal court. Would that have changed
13 the committee's minds, who knows, there was such
14 a rush to justice that no one can be sure.
15 I heard one city councilman joking after
16 the last riverboat committee meeting that he had
17 spent more time in the council debating on
18 whether to buy a new pumper truck for the fire
19 station than he did on the committee selection
20 process that will be very important for Michigan
21 City and the whole county.
22 At the final meeting of the evaluation
23 committee the city attorney who sat on the
24 evaluation committee said in very threatening
25 tones to everyone that was there, there will be

1 a boat on the creek or there will be no boat.
2 Well, fortunately you all will make that
3 decision, not that person and not that
4 evaluation committee that was held in Michigan
5 City.
6 I did not feel the recommendations the
7 committee gave should be given weight over other
8 communities. You all have a job to do and we
9 understand that. But I would say to you as
10 president of the LaPorte County Labor Coalition
11 and as someone who has been involved in this
12 from day one, please hear our words. You are
13 doing better than them already, I got a chance
14 to speak before you today and I never got the
15 chance with them. Thank you.
16 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much.
17 Okay. We have Elmo Gonzalez.
18 MR. GONZALEZ: Good afternoon distinguished
19 members of the commission. I'm Elmo Gonzalez,
20 family proprietor of a local furniture store
21 downtown on Lincolnway and Indiana in LaPorte.
22 I'm also the past mayor of the city of LaPorte.
23 And some habits are a little bit hard to break,
24 so on behalf of myself I welcome each and every
25 one of you to LaPorte.

1 I know that this is a very serious matter,
2 but I think there are times when we can take a
3 little lightness and try to analyze some of the
4 things that have been said and discussed. But
5 from day one when the first news came out about
6 the possibility of a gambling riverboat in
7 Michigan City, I was at the forefront of seeing
8 that that happened, that it was a realization.
9 I was on the speaker's bureau, and let me tell
10 you, when you are up against eloquent speakers
11 such as Reverend Wolf and that coalition, you've
12 really got to do a lot of talking.
13 My main concern was, in this day and age,
14 of cutting taxes and of not wanting to raise any
15 new taxes and all of the infrastructure needs
16 that we have. I asked the minister's
17 association to tell me what other method we can
18 do to improve our cities and towns, our county
19 and our community. If you can give me something
20 that I can lay my hands on and present to the
21 public, then I will not support riverboat
22 gambling. It was never presented to me, we
23 never got any ideas as to how best we could do
24 some of these very necessary things.
25 I was somewhat disappointed also, of

1 course -- although I have a lot of respect for
2 my -- we weren't fellow mayors at the time --
3 the present Mayor Bergerson and regard her as a
4 real close friend as well, but I do believe that
5 this was a LaPorte County referendum and that
6 perhaps more representation for communities such
7 as LaPorte and other localities should have been
8 included in the selection or the recommendation
9 to this board. And I say that without
10 trepidation because although the overwhelming
11 support and the overwhelming vote came from the
12 city of Michigan City, I can tell you that
13 there has been many a politician who runs for
14 county public office who agonizes at those
15 closing hours of the day waiting for that all
16 important vote from Michigan City to come in and
17 make them successful to represent the county.
18 People are not going to be merely in
19 Michigan City, this is the ideal location. It's
20 far enough from the urban communities that they
21 can come and spend the day here. Not only will
22 they be able to shop the stores and the
23 facilities that we have nearby, the riverboat
24 gambling, but we want them to spend other time
25 in our fine community. Look at our fields, our

1 apple orchards, our fruit fields and look at our
2 antiques that we have, look at the uniqueness of
3 cities such as LaPorte, look at our inland
4 lakes, those are the things that we have to
5 develop on the strengths.
6 In fact, I attended a public meeting and
7 after that, having discussed with my fellow
8 Mayor McDonald of Evansville, I wrote a letter
9 of support which is a matter of record. But I
10 felt very strongly that money or revenue should
11 be shared over and above whatever agreement we
12 have made with the then present mayor about
13 sharing of the revenues with the other
14 communities so that we could invest in economic
15 development so that we could attract high paying
16 jobs and keep us in contention for -- against
17 other communities and at the same time offer
18 something more than just riverboat gambling. So
19 on that strength I believe that it is not a
20 matter of should Michigan City get a riverboat
21 gambling license but how soon. Thank you.
22 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much.
23 MR. THAR: Mr. Gonzalez, may I ask
24 question. Mr. Gonzalez, what's your
25 understanding of the revenue sharing proposal

1 discussed by the city this morning, 25 percent
2 of gaming tax receipts received by Michigan City
3 be utilized for projects throughout LaPorte
4 County?
5 MR. GONZALEZ: I endorse that very
6 strongly. I think when we spoke to Mayor Behler
7 at that time, it was agreed that we would get 25
8 percent of the pot according to the population.
9 But I'm saying that there should be added
10 revenues by the developers included in that pot
11 because we must protect our infrastructure.
12 MR. THAR: Is it your understanding that
13 that revenue sharing of at least 25 percent that
14 you discussed with Mayor Behler prior to change
15 of administration is in place?
16 MR. GONZALEZ: I couldn't say that because
17 you can't put something like that on a new
18 mayor, but I would hope that it took place. I
19 do not know if that's a reality or not.
20 MR. MILCAREK: I did not get that
21 impression that it was, I think I specifically
22 addressed that, and I was told it was going to
23 be the Pottawattomie Park area and sewer
24 extensions and I-94. And I asked about town of
25 Westville and LaPorte and I think I received a

negative reply on that.

MR. GONZALEZ: Well, I'm sorry to hear that.

MR. THAR: What was your understanding -- let me go back to that question -- what did you understand was to be shared in whatever way, shape or form?

MR. GONZALEZ: The original agreement was 25 percent of revenue not including taxes and that that pot would be distributed to the other communities in LaPorte County, not giving a full fair share to the county because they were going to be sharing in the admission so that the other communities could contribute to their own infrastructure with that revenue and that was the understanding we had.

MS. BOCHNOWSKI: That would be something I would imagine we would have to follow up on.

MR. THAR: We want to follow up on that issue.

MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Stanley Hynek.

MR. HYNEK: Hi. I'm Stan Hynek, and I'm the current Wills Township trustee and assessor here in LaPorte County. My township sits on a northeastern corner of LaPorte County near the

1 St. Joe County line border. I'm also vice
2 president of the LaPorte County Trustee
3 Association, but I want to make it clear that
4 I'm not speaking for the association, I'm
5 speaking for myself and a few other township
6 trustees.
7 While I'm not here to endorse a particular
8 company, I would tell you that only one company
9 took time to seek out several of us and discuss
10 the revenue sharing throughout LaPorte County
11 and that was Michigan City Casino and Lodge.
12 Folks, this was a county-wide referendum, and I
13 think that the record ought to be clear that if
14 we are going to allocate money or the gross
15 earnings, that the smaller towns and county
16 should also to get their share. While it's
17 important that Michigan City gets its fair
18 share, I'm here to tell you that our towns and
19 townships will need the added revenue as well,
20 that this is important -- I know that this is
21 important, this is a big reason why the town
22 council of Kingsford Heights and the Chamber in
23 Westville this last week backed the plans -- so
24 I think that is something that we would like to
25 keep in mind over the coming days and weeks and

1 that is the idea of some of the revenue sharing
2 with other parts of the county, we hope that
3 this will be one of the things we can all keep
4 in mind. Thank you.
5 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much.
6 Bart Lombard.
7 MR. LOMBARD: Good afternoon. I want to
8 tell my friend, Elmo Gonzalez, not all of us
9 wait for Michigan City results, some of us in
10 fact, even dread those results when they come.
11 Good afternoon, members of the Gaming
12 Commission. My name is Bart Lombard, and I
13 reside at 116 South Roeske Avenue in Trail
14 Creek. It appears I have the dubious
15 distinction of being the final speaker to
16 address you today.
17 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Actually you're not.
18 MR. LOMBARD: Well, I said dubious because
19 while I understand this is only the first of
20 three days you'll be spending in our beautiful
21 county, I am sure the amount of testimony in the
22 first session, in this session, has created a
23 very long day for you, and so I appreciate the
24 stamina that you have displayed so far today.
25 In fact, I'm reminded of a story of a

1 psychiatrist who was approached by a friend with
2 this question, he said, tell me, the friend
3 asked, how do you listen hour after hour day
4 after day to people pouring out their distress
5 and troubles, to which the psychiatrist replied,
6 well, who listens.
7 However, I know this commission is
8 sincerely interested in listening to the
9 thoughts and concerns from various members of
10 this community regarding the gaming operation in
11 the city of Michigan City. And so as a younger
12 community member of the Michigan City area, I
13 come before you today to tell of my hopes and
14 concerns over a potential historic moment in the
15 future economic growth of Michigan City.
16 I'd like to start off by reading a short
17 quote by a gentleman named John Ruskin
18 (phonetic). He writes, quote, "When we build,
19 let us think that we build forever, let it not
20 be for present delight, not for present use
21 alone, let it be such work as our descendants
22 will thank us for and let us think as we lay
23 stone on stone that a time is to come when those
24 stones will be held sacred because our hands
25 have touched them and that men will say as they

1 look upon this, see this, our fathers did for
2 us."
3 Now, all of this appears at face value just
4 a nice simple thought about development in
5 general. These words never have held more
6 potential meaning than they do today because,
7 ladies and gentlemen, these thoughts appear in
8 the foreward of a book published 20 years ago.
9 It's not any old book but rather it's a book
10 documenting the establishment of a town, a town
11 we all live in, a town called Michigan City,
12 Indiana. And the book is called Michigan City,
13 Indiana, the Life of a Town, you should check it
14 out.
15 So when Mr. Ruskin writes, quote, "When we
16 build, let us think that we build forever, let
17 it not be for present delight nor for present
18 use alone," it's as if he were writing to us
19 this day because after all of the pomp and
20 circumstances of this potential development
21 process, it is the development and the location
22 that, if granted, will long remain as our gift
23 to future generations of Michigan City area
24 residents.
25 And with that thought in mind, unlike some

1 in the audience, I publicly applaud the nearly
2 three years of preparation concluded by the
3 political businesses and civic leaders of this
4 community to ensure a bold and diverse strategy
5 for economic growth for Michigan City for years
6 to come. But I caution the commission to
7 understand that during your upcoming
8 deliberations, many in the community, like
9 myself, only support this type of economic
10 development for an upstream location. To
11 paraphrase a recent slogan, and with certainly
12 no disrespect intended, it's the location,
13 stupid.
14 Seventeen out of 22 members of the
15 evaluation committee established a review of the
16 companies and locations of a possible gaming
17 operation in Michigan City concluded
18 unequivocally that an upstream Trail Creek
19 location was not only the most desirable site
20 for not only a gaming operation but also allowed
21 the best site for future expansion and an
22 auxiliary economic development. And when one
23 concludes, as did the committee, that an
24 upstream location is what Michigan City wants
25 and needs, the only remaining question is what

1 company can accomplish this project in the
2 location that the leaders of the Michigan City
3 area overwhelming endorsed.
4 There are only two companies. To the
5 average person both companies are equally voiced
6 to become another strong economic partner to
7 this community -- and I see I'm running short on
8 time -- we in Michigan City know that company.
9 We know the company that has been there from the
10 first day on and has supported every aspect of
11 our community at the recommended site. So after
12 your time here this week you will leave our fair
13 city and return to your homes throughout state
14 of Indiana. But please remember, the critical
15 decisions you make in the days ahead will
16 forever decide the future landscape of our
17 hometown, my hometown, Michigan City, the town I
18 intend to stay.
19 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much. If
20 you would like to submit written comments, we'll
21 read the entire text. Okay. There are two
22 additional speakers who did submit their request
23 to speak in their -- I guess they were post
24 marked within the deadline time so the next --
25 we have two additional speakers -- so the next

one would be Steve Mueller.

MR. MUELLER: Thank you. I did get my letter today in the mail at about 3:30. What concerns me most about the gaming casino coming into Michigan City is the influence that's been put upon the commission and everyone else to be here today and why we are all here, what they want is the endorsement.

I think it is absolutely wrong for any politics to become involved in this process and it has, it's happened in East Chicago and it's happening here today with all of the representatives that have spoken. There is a network system that's been brought to you today, to the commission, to hear their endorsements. I'm not here to endorse anyone but I think the commission ought to think about the network system being used and why this is important.

I can refer to a movie, the Godfather, if anyone has ever seen it, I'm sure lots of have, it does play a process and I think it's absolutely wrong. Grant it, the referendum vote in '93 was taken and the results are that it passed by 1 percent. Well, maybe if there were another referendum vote taken in 1996 in the

1 general election, there would be a higher
2 turnout, more people will cast their votes,
3 whether they are for or against, and more
4 general people of the population will be
5 representing their ideas.
6 And I think it is absolutely systematically
7 wrong for any corporation to be involved in
8 politics. As you may or may not know, one of
9 the former democratic committee council people
10 is now involved in one of the gaming casinos,
11 and I think that that has played -- he has since
12 diminished his state of town council chairman,
13 however, that is not to be so -- and I just
14 wanted to let the Gaming Commission know that
15 and bring it to their attention. Thank you.
16 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much.
17 Reverend Milton Gould.
18 REVEREND GOULD: To the members of the
19 commission, I'll make my comments very brief
20 because I asked permission to turn my time over
21 to another person, Becky Tippett, from East
22 Dubuque. In my counts so far this afternoon we
23 had seven endorsements for; one vote; two for
24 another and one for another, failed, of course.
25 And I didn't know our last speaker was going to

1 speak but he points out the illustration to
2 everything that I wanted to say this afternoon.
3 Simply my experience the last three years
4 has been with a knife to the belly cutthroat
5 style politics that's gone into bringing us here
6 today. We are not here because the citizens
7 overwhelmingly want to have gambling in LaPorte
8 County, Michigan City, nor do we need the jobs
9 particularly. We say we have 4.9 percent
10 unemployment according to the recent press
11 release, so it raises a lot of question in my
12 mind today as to why we are here, and I think a
13 lot of it simply has to do with money and with
14 the political system as it is.
15 And the one vote that has been endorsed by
16 the city has had a bad track record. And Becky
17 Tippett is a former employee of the Silver Eagle
18 in Illinois which would be Indiana Blue Chip
19 here, I would like to turn my time over to her.
20 MS. TIPPETT: Thank you. I appreciate it.
21 I traveled a long, long way to come and talk to
22 you today. I'm a proponent of gambling. I have
23 worked in the gaming business for over three
24 years, and I'm still currently employed in the
25 gaming business. I find it as a form of

1 entertainment. I find the majority of customers
2 are there for entertainment, not only do they
3 come for entertainment but they come back to see
4 people that are working there. Well, one thing
5 I need to let you know is the moneys that were
6 through tax dollars were well used in our
7 community. East Dubuque has put in sewer
8 services in a certain part of town that didn't
9 have them before, so now we have that. Those
10 things were good things that came from there,
11 there were bad things that came from it, though.
12 We have 340 dislocated workers in addition
13 to over 500 from our meat packing plants and
14 from another publishing company in town. Now in
15 the paper last night there is another 500 people
16 going to be laid off in 12 to 18 months, so now
17 we are economically depressed. Have we had
18 time -- have we had time -- we should have had
19 time to say -- to be able to turn around and get
20 different jobs, find something else. We were
21 given no notice.
22 In 1993 when our then competition, the
23 Dubuque Casino Belle, left, they gave people
24 notice, they gave the community notice. They
25 trusted employees, they trusted their community.

1 You wouldn't have believed the turnout that came
2 for the leaving of the boat. Our boat was shut
3 down like this (indicating) on a Tuesday night,
4 told it was an audit. The next day we were told
5 it was a layoff. The next day after that, on
6 December 6th, it came out in the paper that they
7 didn't expect to reopen. And in the process of
8 all of this they slammed our work ethic by
9 saying that they couldn't give us notice because
10 they didn't trust us as employees.
11 Now, we are bonded. And you will find that
12 all of your people that will work in a gaming
13 position will be bonded by the state and
14 licensed to work there. You do not ever want to
15 do anything to have that license taken away from
16 you because if it's taken away in one state,
17 it's looked at in another state as to why. And
18 if you are stealing, that's a felony and you
19 cannot get a gaming license in another state.
20 There was no one, not one single person employed
21 that day, that would have done that.
22 I want you to beware of this predator, this
23 is what they are. They came into our community
24 with promises, promises that were not kept.
25 There are three of five environmental issues

1 There are three of five environmental issues
2 that are still not completed, still not. We
3 were told on December 5th we were going to get
4 one week of severance pay, it has not come to
5 us. What are we supposed to do? It took them a
6 month to get the Job Training Partnership Act
7 Association to get us help so we could get aid
8 to get education for different jobs, it took
9 them a month. It shouldn't have taken a month,
10 it should have been the day after.
11 I just want you to be aware of this
12 predator. Be cautious who you choose. Make
13 sure you know who you're talking to, be sure to
14 check their track record. And believe me, you
15 wouldn't rent your house to someone who left a
16 mess in another house prior to renting yours.
17 Thank you.
18 MS. BOCHNOWSKI: Thank you very much.
19 Okay. That is the end of our public comment,
20 and I believe that's the end of our day,
21 correct? And we meet again tomorrow at 8:30 in
22 the morning here to begin. And I believe Blue
23 Chip will be our first applicant to testify.
24 Thank you all.
25 (Proceedings concluded at or about 5:04 p.m.)

1 STATE OF INDIANA)
2) SS:
3 COUNTY OF LAPORTE)
4 COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
5 I, Natalie Bearickx, CSR, and duly authorized to
6 administer such oath, do hereby certify that on the 12th day
7 of February, 1996, at the Pine Lake Hotel, 444 Pine Lake
8 Avenue, LaPorte, Indiana, State of Indiana, commencing at or
9 about the hour of 3:45 p.m., I then and there reported the
10 proceedings had before the Indiana Gaming Commission;
11 I further certify that I reported said proceedings by
12 the means of machine shorthand and that I have transcribed
13 my original shorthand notes through the use of
14 computer-aided transcription into the typewritten form and
15 that the foregoing and attached pages or parts of pages
16 number inclusively eighty-four through one hundred
17 forty-eight comprise a true, correct, complete and accurate
18 transcript of said proceedings;
19 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and
20 official seal this 27th day of February, 1996.
21 Natalie Bearickx
22 Natalie Bearickx
23 Natalie Bearickx
Notary Public, State of Indiana
Laporte County
My Commission Expires 08/20/99
24 THIS CERTIFICATE APPLIES ONLY TO THE ORIGINAL TRANSCRIPT
HEREOF AND DOES NOT APPLY TO ANY XEROX COPIES MADE OF THIS
25 TRANSCRIPT.

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