
Kevin Law: “Just a reminder for those who were not here for the morning session, we are the Gaming Siting Location Board, a group of volunteers, and we are going to treat all of our guests with respect, and we also ask that you treat us with respect. Because we have so many people wanting to speak, we limit everybody to five minutes or less. Less is welcome, if you want, but at five minutes, I am going to cut you off, so I don’t mean any disrespect when I do that, but it is just fair to everybody else to keep the afternoon program flowing. With that, we are going to get right to the two lists. I am working off of two lists. At the top of every hour, there are people who registered on the email site for a specific time, and then there are people who just came today and registered, so we will start off each hour with those who registered online, and then we will go to the list of people who registered this morning. And so, kicking off the afternoon session is Jeanette Cato Marino, and Jeanette is not here, so next is Christine Tierney.”

Christine Tierney: “Good afternoon, and thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is Christine Tierney, and I have been a resident and homeowner in East Greenbush for the past fifteen years. I am here to state my opposition, like many other people, to the proposed casino in East Greenbush. You have heard a lot about Councilperson Mary Ann Matters rescinding her support, and she was unable to attend today. She is submitting some comments in writing to you, but in lieu of her presence, she has given me her support and her blessing to read the article that she wrote rescinding her support, so that you have the full picture. The article is titled, In East Greenbush, All That Glitters Is Not Gold. *‘As a new town board member, who took office in January, I never imagined that I would be faced with such a controversial issue as the siting of a gambling casino in East Greenbush. When I was first approached with this project in April, my gut reaction was to reject it out of hand. However, as a representative of the people, my duty was to keep an open mind because it was being promoted as an economic game changer for the financially-ailing East Greenbush. To make a long story short, we voted unanimously twice to trust the information that we were getting from the developers and to allow them into our community. But then, soon after we voted, things changed. Though in the beginning, we were offered a three-million-dollar project, I am now at a loss to understand how that remains to be the case considering the steady downsizing of the project since April. For example, the number of rooms in the three-hundred-room-resort-style hotel has decreased twice, first by half, and then by two thirds, to a one-hundred room, boutique-style hotel. The number of seats in the entertainment-venue showroom has been reduced by one third, and the convenient and plentiful covered parking has been reduced by half. We have heard little about the restaurants that will provide the full complement of exciting dining options or about the shops that will comprise the twenty-thousand-square feet of high-end retail. As a result of these, and possibly further reductions of which I am unaware, I am now wondering if I have allowed myself to be taken by an elaborately orchestrated bait-and-switch scheme, the likes of which we have never seen in East Greenbush. We also have come to realize that there are no revenue guarantees when it comes to casinos. The sustainability of the revenues, the jobs, and all of the glitter that was advertised back in April relies solely on the revenues taken in 24/7, 365 days a year by the casino’s repeat, primarily local business and the ever unpredictable amounts of revenue that will supposedly be turned back to us by the state. Given the state comptroller’s less-than-optimistic assessment of the gaming industry in New York, I am left to wonder whether the word casino will mean game changer or game over in the Capital Region, when it likely fails to produce the*

widely-advertised results. Since April, this project has dwindled from a world-class-destination-resort casino to a local-class casino, and it happened without the Town Board's prior knowledge or input. To add insult to injury, we have yet to be told by the developer how the downsizing of this project will impact the previously-forecasted revenues, jobs, and prospect of lower property taxes. For all of the reasons stated above, I withdraw my support for this project, and I am urging my fellow colleagues on the Town Board to do the same before it is too late.' By Mary Ann Matters, East Greenbush Town Board. I would like to add that this was very hard for Ms. Matters. It took an enormous amount of courage, and it has results in vicious attacks and threats. She is the only Town Board member who has made any effort to communicate with residents publically, and she did write this after numerous conversations with residents. I would publically like to thank her on behalf of the residents of East Greenbush, and I would like to thank you again for the opportunity to speak."

Kevin Law: "Jack Conway."

Jack Conway: I come bearing gifts. My name is Jack Conway. My wife and I bought our house in East Greenbush twenty-six years ago. Thank you for having us today. There has been a lot of talk about the frequency of support and opposition in East Greenbush for a casino. This morning, Mr. Davis called us a vocal minority of **nimbies**. All of those kinds of statements are impressionistic and anecdotal, and in fact, you have before you two systematic sets of data from which to compare; support and opposition. First off, this was submitted. It is a 509-page binder that was submitted to you on June 30th in twenty-bound copies and ten USB ports. I hope you have seen it, and I don't say that to suggest that you might be negligent; only to be sympathetic to the fact that no five people have ever been inundated with as much paper as you have. So I hope..., I point your attention to this; it is a 509-page submission. Today, we have submitted a 347-page addendum to that, making 856 pages of rationale, petitions, letters of opposition, media articles, and a copy of the lawsuit that was filed by Save East Greenbush. Now, that is one set of data. The other set of data is this, and this is the entire section on resident support in the Capital View Casino application. This is it. So let's take a look at what these two things say. First off, they submitted 49 pages to document resident support. We have submitted 856. They submitted a petition with 678 signatures, and we have submitted a petition with 3,058. They have 19 pages of statements from residents in support of the casino, and we have submitted 228 pages of statements of opposition. At the three public hearings sponsored by the town, there were 141 speakers, and 115 spoke against the casino, and 26 spoke in favor. So let's look at the stats; 82 percent of the people in East Greenbush who signed the petition oppose a casino in East Greenbush, and 92 percent of the statements submitted to you, formally submitted, oppose a casino. 81.5 percent of the people who spoke at public hearings in East Greenbush oppose a casino. Now these are two sets of data that were systematically collected, carefully documented, and formally submitted to this board, so I would suggest that any anecdotal or impressionistic views you are given should pale in comparison to what we have documented here. And I just want to give you a small sense of why the community feels this way. All of the Capital View applications have three major thrusts, three major sets of problems they want to solve. One is the heartbreaking poverty of Albany. The other is the heartbreaking poverty of Troy, and the third is the cannibalization of the Saratoga Racino. Now you could understand why we in East

Greenbush do not want to be the staging ground to solve the problem for three large municipalities who rejected the opportunity to solve this problem for themselves. And the reason is because it is our roads that will be clogged, it is our Girl Scout camp that will be lost, it is our property values that will decline, it is school buses full of our children who will be sharing the road with drunk drivers. So we understand that the impact is supposed to be region wide, but why a prosperous small town like East Greenbush would be used as a staging area to solve the problems of three major upstate municipalities, all of whom have more resources than we do and the ability to solve their own problems. We don't think that is fair and 3,000 signatures on a petition. I did not put them on an Excel spreadsheet; I just did a numerical count, but 70 percent of those 3,000 signatures are from the Town of East Greenbush. Almost 90 percent, between 85 and 90 percent, come from within a fifteen-mile radius of that site of the casino. Alternatively, the Saratoga submission has 678 signatures, only 291 have addresses, but of those 291, only 100, or 34 percent, are from East Greenbush. There is no doubt as to how the people of East Greenbush feel. If there was a referendum in that town today, it would be two or three to one against this casino. We say no, and we implore you to do the same. Thank you."

Dennis Glazer: "I have a question for you, sir, Jack. May I ask you a question?"

Jack Conway: "Yes, sure."

Dennis Glazer: "I think you may have inadvertently given me an accurate percentage when I asked you earlier, if 70 percent is of your 3,000 signatures, about 2,100 or 2,200."

Jack Conway: "That's right."

Dennis Glazer: "And there are 17,000 people?"

Jack Conway: "There are 16,400."

Dennis Glazer: "So 16,000. So doing the math..."

Jack Conway: "It is just under 11,000 adults."

Dennis Glazer: "So as a percentage it is..."

Jack Conway: "Approximately 20 percent."

Dennis Glazer: "Twenty percent of the adults."

Jack Conway: "Of the adult population. It is 12 percent of the entire population of East Greenbush. In social-science research, if you can get two percent of the municipality, you have a huge sample."

Dennis Glazer: "I have a second question."

Jack Conway: "Sure."

Dennis Glazer: "Somebody said earlier that it was unfunded, the opposition is unfunded."

Jack Conway: "Yes."

Dennis Glazer: "Who pays for all the ..."

Jack Conway: "Well what we do is we each pay for certain things. We make a batch of signs and everybody throws in 100 bucks. I paid for the production of the 500-page submission, Tina and Mora paid for the production of the 347-page petition. We have no funding. We have a website where you can donate, but that hasn't really drawn anything. We have had one fundraiser, and we raised a couple of thousand dollars. This is a grass-roots organization in the pure sense of the word."

Dennis Glazer: "Thank you much."

Jack Conway: "Okay, thank you."

Kevin Law: "Neil Dugan."

Neil Dugan: "Good afternoon. My name is Neil Dugan, and I, unlike mayors and prominent business people; I am a resident of East Greenbush, New York. My wife, Mary, and I live within a mile of the proposed casino site. I would like to address what we believe to be negative aspects about siting a gaming casino in my small community and town of 16,000 people. It has been well documented that East Greenbush is not an economically distressed area. If there are any financial shortcomings, it appears that those troubles have been caused by inept, weak, and nonexistent accounting practices. Audits of town finances have not been completed. When outside firms have been retained, there have been scant records to rely on in the performance of such scrutiny. This again does not mean that our community is economically deprived. Changes in proposed and original plans for the casino with promises of work and revenues seem to fluctuate as the developers alter designs and concepts, so no one even knows what is being offered. Supposed income for the town and reduced taxes for its residents now seems clouded. Pledges of support from surrounding towns and cities to support the East Greenbush casino mean little to taxpayers as to who will pay for the necessary increased police and fire personnel, not to mention infrastructure, construction, and maintenance. As the crime increases, property values will inevitably lower the tax base. Let us consider another factor in your panel's charge; the support of the host community for gaming in East Greenbush. A number of months ago, our town board voted to support a casino in Thompson Hill. Their planning for that action was exposed only by foil request; residents were totally excluded. Such secrecy leads to distrust. Thus far, unrefuted documentation shows that our townspeople are not in favor of this siting by a margin of at least six to one. Since the time of planning, two of the five board members have changed positions; one recuse and one no vote. The reasons for those changes have been widely

published. A bolder question might be what kind of motivation the other three members had to maintain their yes vote. People are upset that the casino would be placed near schools and community-service organizations. It seems perverted to have adults trying to win money from craps and roulette next door to children trying to earn grades and awards from teachers and mentors. Townspeople are disturbed at what might be convoluted and dishonest zoning and planning decisions. I personally hope that a well-conceived SEQRA process doesn't become twisted by contrived, legal arrangements. Eminent domain has been exacted on communities before. Albany's Empire Plaza is one such example. Many businesses and homeowners were displaced by then Governor Rockefeller. As present mayor of Albany was quoted in the *Times Union*, 'The Empire Plaza is a cautionary tale. Government should respect what people want.' Finally, looking at other failed casinos, there is a strong possibility that the East Greenbush siting, Thompson Hill, could have a similar future. Where will all the workers go then? Thank you for your consideration and deliberations."

Kevin Law: "Kara Benson."

Kara Benson: "Hi. Thanks for the opportunity. I am actually probably going to keep it brief. I did have longer prepared remarks. Repaired, prepared; oh my goodness. I have been up since two in the morning. Prepared remarks, but many of the points have been covered today. I am an East Greenbush resident. I also am opposed to an East Greenbush casino. I guess two things I would like to say is that while I appreciate Kathy Sheehan looking out for her constituents, I would like to just say that I think the East Greenbush residents wish that their representatives had been looking out for them, as well as she is attempting to look out for her constituents. And the other point I would like to make is that there is no doubt in my mind that we are resolute. We are not going away, we're just not. If this thing gets put here, I mean with all due respect, I don't mean to be unkind or anything like that, but it's going to be havoc. We are resolute, we are not going away. We will continue to have fundraisers. We have barbecues and picnics, pizza. Somebody from PTO just came down to me. They didn't even, some of these people still don't even know, so that 3,000, she said, 'Can I make my own petition? Because I want to tell the other parents about it.' This thing is growing, and I am not going away, these people are not going away, Save East Greenbush is not going away until the casino goes away, period."

Keven Law: "Now to the other list, people who registered, starting with New York State Senator James Seward."

James Seward: "Well first of all, thank you for the opportunity to testify here today. I am Senator Jim Seward, and I represent the 51st Senatorial District, which is all or parts of nine counties right in the center of the state, including Schoharie County. Now when the constitutional amendment and the implementing legislation came before the State Senate, I was a supporter of both the constitutional amendment and the implementing legislation. And I can speak to my understanding, clear understanding, of what the legislative intent of both the amendment and the implementing legislation was, and I think I can speak in my conversations with constituents of what the voters had in mind when they approved the constitutional amendment, and that is that successful casino applications should meet certain criteria. First and

foremost, is having broad economic impact in regions that are in great need of increased economic activity. Obviously revenues for both local governments and the state speed the market; applications that can be built and up and running expeditiously, so those benefits can be quickly realized, and finally, strong, local support for a casino. The Howe Caverns Resort and Casino project more than meets all of these criteria, and I would submit to you that it is the only proposal in the Capital Region that does. The Howe Caverns Resort and Casino proposal is a real game changer for a county and for a region that is in great need of a game changer. This is a county and region that has some of the highest unemployment in the state. This is a county that has received less economic development infusion in terms of the levels that have gone into other competing communities here in this region. There has been no nanotechnology state investment in Schoharie County, as well as moving state agency offices to Schenectady or over to the Troy and Rensselaer County to help bolster those local economies. We have been on our own, and of course, the devastating impact of the floods from Irene and Lee back in 2011. Communities have decimated, local economies have been decimated, and local tax bases, as well. And the Howe Caverns Resort and Casino is the only proposed project in this region that anchors with existing attractions, so all can benefit on a region-wide basis. Howe Caverns currently draws approximately 200,000 visitors each year. But also keep in mind that it could co-anchor with this casino with other regional destinations. I represent also with the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, a major draw, as well. We have the Cooperstown Dream Park, which is a major draw, ski resorts, entertainment venues; all would benefit collectively through the presence of a casino at Howe Caverns. The Howe Caverns Resort and Casino represents the only true destination resort that will benefit an entire region, and not just one single community. There are some pretty impressive numbers that reflect the project's overall economic impact. Fourteen million in additional revenue to the county that is struggling, 3.7 million of additional revenue to a town that is struggling, 6 million of additional revenue to the school districts that are struggling, 3,000 construction jobs, 1,700 permanent jobs in an area where we see a flight of our young people leaving just to find a job. And of course, there is talk of establishing a regional fund for tourism promotion, workforce development, and other local projects that will benefit the entire region. Finally, I would say that the Howe Caverns Resort and Casino can be up and running quickly. We have an experienced team here. Michael Malik, the owner/developer, a successful entrepreneur in gaming, sports, and entertainment industries; major projects under his belt already. Full House Resorts as the operator; regional resorts and casinos in similar markets. They have already been successful; they can be successful at Howe Caverns. And of course, with Howe Caverns being a long-term successful attraction, there is a great team in place there. The environment approvals are in place, the water and sewer is in place, and strong, local government and public support; it is all there in a package. So I would submit to you, when it comes to the Howe Caverns Resort and Casino, it is ready to be constructed, we are ready to operate, we are ready to rebuild our region's economy, and we are ready to produce revenues for local governments, as well as the state. It is our time; please give us that opportunity. Thank you very much."

Kevin Law: "Thank you Senator. Thank you for your comments."

James Seward: "Thank you."

Kevin Law: "Have a good day. Okay, next is Carmel Patrick."

Carmel Patrick: "I would like to thank the Gaming Facility Location Board for giving me the opportunity to speak today. My name is Carmel Patrick, and I am the Director of Development at miSci, the Museum of Innovation and Science in Schenectady, and I am also a proud resident of the City of Schenectady. MiSci is one of Upstate New York's most unique attractions. Located in Schenectady, it is more than a museum; it is a center for aerospace and astronomy education. Our hands-on science, technology, education, engineering, and math or STEM educational programs and exhibits not only serve young minds, but we also serve adults, as well. We serve thousands of children who come to our museum every year on school field trips or family vacation trips. They learn about Schenectady's history, about the rich history of innovation in our region, and they also learn about things like the stars through the services in our planetarium. MiSci has grown by leaps and bounds in recent years, and we want to grow more. We are renovating our planetarium and opening a Challenger learning center next year, where kids can experience a simulated shuttle mission. MiSci is a learning experience, but it is also part of the entertainment and cultural fabric of Schenectady, and when I think about Rivers Casino and Resort, I think about how much that entertainment and tourism industry could benefit if they came here. Proctors alone draws more than 650,000 people here annually. That is a huge boost to our downtown businesses and the city's economic vitality. Those people drawn to downtown frequent other businesses and other institutions, such as miSci. Think about this, Rivers is expected to attract 2.8 million visitors to Schenectady. To a city like us, that is an incredible number. This is the only application that will send those visitors to a real downtown, and I have to say a downtown that has become so vibrant in recent years. If the idea of the Gaming Act is to extend economic benefits of the casino, then Schenectady is the only place it will truly happen. And I know Rush Street Gaming is going to work to make it happen. I know they have tied their Rush Reward Program to museums in other markets, and I would welcome such a partnership with miSci that would bring more visitors through our doors. We already see countless children and families pass through our doors; in fact, we had 86,000 visitors in 2013, up from 20,000 in 2012. That encourages me to speak for the need for those economic benefits I just mentioned. Our city is great in many ways, but so many of our families struggle to make ends meet. Schenectady has the thirteenth highest concentration of child poverty in the nation, not the state, but the entire country, and the schools, our schools, are in a constant budget crisis. Our Schenectady schools have a high number of economically disadvantaged students, nearly all qualifying for free or reduced lunch, and low graduation rates. That is something I can't help but think about when a school field trip or a field trip from one of our local nonprofit youth serving organizations comes to visit us at the museum. MiSci can spark a lifelong interest in learning. I think the taxes from Rivers could be the solution to making sure that that spark doesn't fizzle out. And the casino offers a chance for employment that includes tourism, food service, and security, amongst others. These could give our high-school students a chance to enter the excellent programs at Schenectady County Community College and master those career paths. Thank you for taking the time to hear from me today. I hope the board will consider awarding the license to Schenectady. Our city is ready. Thank you."

Kevin Law: "Thank you. David Kettlewood."

David Kettlewood: "David Kettlewood, of course, is my name. I live in East Greenbush, and I have been there sixty-three years, I was actually born in Samaritan Hospital, but moved over after that. I am opposed to the casino. I think the location is a bad location. From what I hear, there are going to be thousands of cars coming in to that area daily. That makes me think again as you have heard many times about the Girl Scout camp, residential areas, and schools. Someone had mentioned the possibility of some kids skipping school to maybe go to the gambling casino. I know myself, in 1970, when McDonald's opened up in East Greenbush, our high school was just a few feet away. We skipped class and went to McDonald's, so it can happen. Anyone says that it is not possible, well it is. We have a Wal*Mart next door. Now I am not saying that we... anyone that reads the papers in this area knows Wal*Mart has a problem with different shoplifting and so on, and again with additional cars, I am sure that would increase. Someone mentioned nursing homes also. Good point. I retired last year, and I have been able to volunteer my time there, playing sing-alongs with the guitar, maybe about once a week, and I have noticed one nursing home in particular does not put the last names on the rooms anymore. Now you can speculate why that is, I have a few ideas, but they would not tell us. They also make you sign in when you go in now, they say so that they can find you if there is a fire. I am sure they have some other reasons for wanting you to sign in also. Again, additional people coming into the town; who knows what is going on with that. Stolen signs; three times my sign was stolen. I called the police twice. One time the policeman said something interesting; he said, 'Okay, we are going to increase the patrols.' So I said to myself, well they haven't even put a shovel to the ground yet and we have problems with crime already. Economically, you have heard all about that, I don't want to go into that, although I do believe that gambling as it is, is really just another form of taxation, and it is going to move money from one area to the other area. And finally, one of the things that I did since I retired is that I got out, starting May 17th, and walked the streets of East Greenbush. I made up 450 flyers, as somebody mentioned, we don't have a lot of money coming in, and I paid for them myself, handed out every one of them. I kept some records. I talked to approximately 200 people, okay, and of those, clearly 60 to 65 percent were against the casino for various reasons. Again, they just thought it was a poor spot, couldn't even actually believe that they considered putting it there. Some were obviously not for gambling, just a variety of reasons; you have heard them all here today. Basically what I am saying is that I would be against it. I would like to be able to say again that I was out there talking to the people of East Greenbush, 450 homes visited and 200 people talked to. Thank you."

Kevin Law: "Robert Lassone."

Robert Lassone: "Don't start the time yet. Good afternoon, my name is Robert Lassone, an Albany County resident and a New York State retiree, a proud New York State retiree. I have been totally blind for a lot of years now, and I am coming to speak to you today about a different subject that has not been approached, and I am not sure if you are the agency that will deal with this; however, you can at least get it to the right person, if you so choose. And that is the fact that casinos are not ADA compliant, even though the law has been on the books since 1991,

signed by President Bush, Sr. Americans with Disabilities Act is a followup to Section 504, the National Rehabilitation Act, which was passed in the early 1970's. Get over here. He is a momma's boy, what can I say. New York State has been a leader in providing services for the disabled community, not just in the last 25 years, but for the last 50 years, approximately. With 504, they set up a section called 55B in the civil service structure, so that disabled people who had skill, but were unable to compete with the general public were given a heads up or a foot up in the door, so that they could get a career. I was a beneficiary of that, and a proud one, and served New York State for many years and retired in not total comfort, but at least not on minimal subsidy. If it wasn't for that assistance, I would have had a problem. I am just one of several thousands of people that are disabled that worked for the New York State government and got that opportunity. Now how is the system not applicable today for the casinos. Next time you sit down in front of a slot machine; close your eyes, and then play. Lots of sound effects, but no clue as to what is going on, and yet it is in print on that screen, besides the music, there is print that says what is going on, how many cherries, or if you are playing casino poker or whatever. It tells you what is going on. We have no idea. Just recently, in the month of July, over 2,000 people went to Las Vegas for a national convention of blind people. They participated in the only game that is available to them, which was slot machines, and if they were totally blind, they did not have a clue. They were up to the mercy of the people who were around that could see, to let them know what happened. Myself, I was at a casino in Las Vegas in probably 1982 or 1983, somewhere around there. It was Caesars. I was playing a slot machine, and finally a bar girl came by and said, 'Sir, why are you playing that machine, it is tilt.' I didn't know it. I kept putting my quarters in there and getting nothing. So she got the pit boss out, and he came over. He opened up the door; it opens up like a refrigerator. He could tell exactly when my last quarter got registered. He gave me a big stack of quarters, and while he has got that door opened, another blind guy comes down the aisle, and he bumps into the machine, and he starts pumping quarters into a machine that is wide open. So it does present a problem here, and there is no reason why it can't be made adaptable for the visually impaired; very easily done. Everything today has a talk option to it. My wristwatch will talk. I have a pocket reader that holds 28 novels. It reads it to me, and I put it under my pillow at night when I am going to sleep. It fits in my shirt pocket. Computers talk. It is called a system called Jaws. Given us an equal opportunity, so that we can lead a normal and productive and normal life. I am not a heavy gambler. I do enjoy it occasionally. The last time I went up to the Racino in Saratoga. I thought by now that they must have something available. I went to customer service, I told them my problem, and asked if they had one of the computers here or a slot machine that talks. 'No, I am sorry. We can't help you. You will have to get someone to help you.' And that is the way that it is. That is the way that it was in Las Vegas just recently. The only time that I know that they made a talking computer was for Ray Charles, over thirty years ago, and it told him whether he had three cherries or not, but that is the only time. To protect the casinos, if they did put a jack in there, where a blind person could put on a headset to hear what is going on, is they can make a bastard part on there, excuse my French, but we all know what that is. Instead of having a normal-sized jack, have it go in another inch beyond there. Instead of having it round, you could have it as a triangle, just to protect the casino to make sure that someone isn't playing games with it and screwing up the system. When you go to Disney World, you can go to customer service there and put up a \$50.00 deposit. They will give you a headset and a recorder

that tells you what is around you, and then at the end of the day, you bring it back to them, and you get your \$50.00 back. They could do the same thing at these casinos. Why aren't they doing it? Because no one has really pushed the issue. I have been trying for weeks to get a hold of somebody of the officials in the State Gaming Commission to air this, and got nowhere. I have been trying a telephone number, (518) 388-3300. I tried extension 2, extension 4, extension 9, which is legal, and all I got was a pickup and then back to a dial tone. All three extensions were not applicable. You don't have people answering the phones for the last, it has been probably three-or-four weeks that way."

Dennis Glazer: "Excuse me. Which one of you guys wants to tell Robert that his time is up?"

Robert Lassone: "My time is up, and I thank you very much. By the way, it is a little warmer now than it was before."

Dennis Glazer: "Robert, thank you for bringing that issue to our attention that I certainly was not aware of. You should know that what you just said was heard by the folks at the casino commission."

Robert Lassone: "In case they want to talk to me, my phone number is (518) 755-8662. Thank you."

Dennis Glazer: "Robert, what did you do for the State of New York? What did you do for our state when you worked for the state?"

Robert Lassone: "I am sorry?"

Dennis Glazer: "What did you do for our state when you were working?"

Robert Lassone: "I was a Medicaid examiner, and my last position was Principal Medicaid Examiner. Prior to that, I was a venereal disease investigator for many years. Then I had sight."

Dennis Glazer: "There are several people in the back who are glad that you are blind. (Lots of laughter) Maybe some in the front!"

Kevin Law: "Heather Marr."

Heather Marr: "Hi, my name is Heather Marr, and I am from Middleburgh. I don't have any statistics, I don't have a speech, and I don't have any numbers like everybody else. I just wanted to come in here as a community member. I was born and raised in Schoharie County. I went to school in Schoharie, and I now presently live in Middleburgh. A local company Cobleskill Stone; I have made a career there. I have been there for ten years; I love it. It is a great place. I was fortunate enough to find that career. A lot of people in my generation aren't that lucky to find a career in their hometown. I don't want to leave. A lot of my classmates have left. If you bring this casino in, I am hoping that future generations, when they graduate and get that

diploma, they are not going to say, 'I can't wait to get out of here.' Because I have heard that from so many people, and I have seen so many businesses go out of our community because everything is just falling down. There is nothing there. I love it there. I don't ever want to leave, and if it comes in, it will help. I have seen the devastation from the floods. I wasn't affected personally, but a lot of my friends have been. It is hard. It is hard to see people leave because they have no choice. The town where I went to school, in Schoharie; there used to be so much going on, and now you go through and there is nothing there. Houses are just empty because they either could not afford to do anything, nothing has been done for them, or they just don't have an option. I think if you bring this casino in, it will help. It will bring other people in to bring money into the community. It is just going to be a lot better. So, I didn't have much to say, but it is quick. I know you like the quick conversations, so that's all I got."

Kevin Law: "Nice job. Thank you Heather. Next is John Andrew Dacus."

John Andrew Dacus: "Hello. Thank you for having me. I didn't expect you to pronounce that right. My name is Jonathan Andrew Dacus. I am the General Manager at the Residence Inn by Marriott in East Greenbush, New York. I am here for support of the casino. First of all, let me start off by saying how much I love my job, and my job is to promote the City of East Greenbush. I know that the casino draws a lot of attention that not everybody is looking for, but it does draw a lot of attention that we, the hospitality and tourism profession, are. First, let me start with my first experience. I just transferred from the hotel in Saratoga Springs, New York. I sold the restaurants and nightlife, the combination, but that is not what I am looking for to sell here. What I am looking for to sell here is an option. We are very fortunate in the location of East Greenbush, as the maps will show you. Within three hours, you can get to Burlington, Boston, New York City, Syracuse, you name it. One thing that we are fortunate enough is that we do have two technology parks located near the projected site. That brings a very diverse, transient business. We are getting people from all over the world with the recent added technology in our area. Also, one other thing that we are blessed with is just the diversified culture that is coming. I am very excited to see the changes that that is going to make. One thing we certainly could do better with is the families that we serve, especially at the three hotels in East Greenbush. I think between the three of us, it is fair to say that we have 60,000 overnight accommodations throughout the year, several of which are family business. It is very tough to promote East Greenbush when Albany, next door, has all of the family attractions that East Greenbush doesn't quite have yet. I do think that with the casino coming that will create more jobs and more opportunities for other local businesses to piggyback off of tax relief. So I am interested in getting, we do have phone flags, it is a great place to send people in East Greenbush, if you have time. We are looking to help those families because we are very fortunate to get a lot of guests in East Greenbush, but if we don't give them healthy options to what they currently have, how long are we going to be able to maintain them? But thank you again for allowing me to present, and I will keep it pretty short. Thanks."

Kevin Law: "Thank you. I am told what happens sometimes...do you need to take a break or do you just need a minute? Alright, we are going to stop for a minute. As I mentioned, Bill Hotaling is next. Is he here? Alright, no Bill. Kevin Hayes? I see a hand up. Is it Bill or

Kevin? Who is here? I see no Bill, I see no Kevin. Wait. Mary Sagendorf is speaking for Kevin and Chris Guldner, so she is speaking for two people. Is Mary here?"

Mary Sagendorf: "Good afternoon, my name is Mary Sagendorf, and I am with my partner and fiancé Chris Guldner."

Chris Guldner: "Mary Sagendorf, you may heard of that name before. That is because the Sagendorf Corners Road is directly at the corner of our property. We are in a residence directly across the street from the location of where the proposed hotel and casino would be built. We are here in support of Howe Caverns Resort and Casino. So in five minutes, I just want to hit on three fundamental components of the evaluation criteria that we want to speak to. One is environmental sensitivity, two is a development approach with local businesses, and three is integration with regional tourism. First, the environment sensitivity. In 1802, the Sagendorf homestead was built on the property directly across the street from the proposed casino location. You can obviously understand how we would consider the impact on our way of life and the beautiful view that we have. I think that the proposed project acknowledges a rural design concept that not only protects but enhances one of the state's premier natural attractions. From a development approach with local businesses, in 1802, not only was the Sagendorf homestead built, but so was the Bull's Head Inn in Cobleskill. That is the oldest building in the village of Cobleskill, which Mary and I and my son own, and we are restoring it and bringing it back into operation as a full-service restaurant in Cobleskill. We intend to partner with Howe Caverns Resort and pursue a win-win relationship between the casino resort operation and local restaurants, as do some of the other local restaurant tours in the area, and we are looking forward to that relationship. The third point is integration with regional tourism. In 1802, the Beekman Mansion was built. That is a tourist destination in Sharon Springs that brings lots of tourists. In addition to the Town of Sharon and the sixteen other towns in the county of Schoharie, I plan, as chair of the county's tourism committee to integrate the strategy for the county's tourism with that of Howe Caverns casino and resort. Those three points I think are critical to the selection of the casino that will be awarded, in addition to the other selection criteria. I believe that our personal opinion adds much credibility to those selection criteria. Thank you."

Dennis Glazer: "I have one question for you. And I apologize because it is out of ignorance, but what is... isn't Howe Caverns a seasonal tourist attraction?"

Chris Guldner: "No it is not."

Dennis Glazer: "That is why I asked."

Mary Sagendorf: "No it is not. That is one of the advantages of being a cavern. It stays 52 degrees all year long, so it is open all year."

Dennis Glazer: "Live and learn."

Chris Guldner: "Thank you for your support."

Kevin Law: “Very good. For the others that are wondering, it is two p.m., and we are going now to the registered speakers starting at two, and we have Robert Malozi. Is Robert here?”

Robert Malozi: “Good afternoon gentlemen. My name is Bobby Malozi. I reside in the Town of Rotterdam Junction that is within Schenectady County. I am also a business owner in the City of Schenectady. Let me first say I really respect the difficult decision that you all have to make. It is quite obvious from all the presentations that any of these projects would greatly benefit any of the host cities. (noise from the audience) That being said...you’re cutting into my time. That being said, we have to remember one thing. As much as there is a lot of discussion about the competition of these four projects, we are all part of the Capital Region. We are neighbors, and when things affect the Capital Region, they affect all of us, whether they be positive or negative. And if we have to really look at the decision-making process and where the need is the greatest, it seems to me that the greatest need lies within the City of Schenectady and particularly the City of Schenectady school district. You can see from our statistics, and we have talked about facts and figures for quite a long time now, but it is the largest urban district in the area. The newest census states over 10,000 enrolled students in the City of Schenectady schools, more than half come from children that are below the poverty line. It is a significant fact, and it is something that should be considered very heavily, considering the benefits that this casino on the river could have toward the city. With me here today is David Brown. He is a member of the Schenectady Stakeholders Association with me, and I am going to turn the microphone over to David.”

David Brown: “Good afternoon gentlemen. As he said, my name is David Brown, and I am the president and CEO of the Capital District YMCA, but I am really not here today to represent the YMCA. I am really here as a citizen who cares about the City of Schenectady and as a strong supporter and member of the Schenectady Stakeholders. I can attest firsthand that we have had at the YMCA a wonderful working relationship with the Galesi Group, the developers in this project. They have helped us take a blighted building and neighborhood and turn it into a resource for the community to house 180 homeless men. They also helped us establish a brand-new YMCA, where children and families are able to participate on a daily basis seven days a week, 365 days a year, with a healthy, wholesome program. I see this casino as something that would really give a boost to Schenectady in terms of jobs, as 1,200 jobs could be provided with this project. It would be a huge help to the members who live in that community to be able to find that type of employment, to be able to put that type of a resource into the community. And at the end of the day, the bottom line is how can we help more children, and I think that people having jobs and being able to be employed and help boost the economy is going to really turn around some of the things in Schenectady. Schenectady has been seen as a city that at one time was dark, but now it is a city that is seen providing light, and I think it can serve as an example to not only provide light to the City of Schenectady, but around the world. So I thank you for your time and listening to my comments.”

Dennis Glazer: “Thank you both very much.”

Robert Malozi: "Thanks for your time, gentlemen."

Dennis Glazer: "I know I shouldn't say this because the hearings aren't over, but everybody has been incredibly well behaved. Even when things are said that you don't like, there is just a low murmur, as opposed to loud boos, which would occur downstate."

Kevin Law: "Don Johnson."

Don Johnson: "I'm Don Johnson from East Greenbush, and I'm the guy who foiled the meeting notes, which revealed some of the conspiracy and secrecy in town government on this casino question. If New York State had a recall, the people who did this thing would be well on their way out of office, and we wouldn't need the Location Board to put a stop to this fiasco. If you have noticed, the town board hasn't even had the sense to ask their due-diligence questions. Capital View is even quoting the police chief in town as saying that he is used to doing more with less, so he sees no need of modification to the East Greenbush Police Force. But I want to address one of the slides that Ms. Cox put up last week related to making the case for our financial distress in East Greenbush. It was the *Wall Street Journal* story, which compared East Greenbush to Compton, California. If you read the fine print, East Greenbush is nothing like Compton. According to our state comptroller in the cited story, our problem in government is mismanagement, not some systemic blight. Our debt is interfund debt. We owe it to ourselves. We don't need a casino; we need some honest government. East Greenbush is a reasonably well-to-do town with a median household income of \$78,000.00, but as cited by the state comptroller, we have had illegal payments to officials, questionable contracts, a half-million-dollar-early-retirement incentive for six town hall insiders, some of whom have come back on the payroll as consultants. The list goes on, and the mismanagement continues. We learned at the last town board meeting last week that we still cannot expect the certified financials for 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 anytime soon, though the town has paid something in the neighborhood of \$75,000.00 to two CPA firms for the work. The special single purpose of the federal funds used in the Mannix Road roundabout, which was ordered by the town board eight months ago has yet to begin. And there is some indication in the record that some of those funds were used to pave, guess what? Thompson Hill Road. This was supposed to have been the responsibility of the subdivision developer on Thompson Hill in another subdivision, which brings us to the elephant in the room, gentlemen. We have two conflict-of-interest recusals directly related to the casino property options on that subdivision property, which I just mentioned; one from the town board and one from the planning board. And this Thompson Hill property deal, which requires the conflict-of-interest recusals, has its own questionable history. The plat approval on that property development was signed last January by the planning board chairman without a planning board meeting and without an authorizing resolution. This, after the matter had been dormant since 2011. Sort that one out, and we might see how Capital View landed on the most inappropriate piece of property in the Capital Region. You need to be asking some important questions about this one, and I'd say think Chinatown. So the state comptroller is right about East Greenbush. We have got mismanagement, and we have got corruption in government. And the one thing, I think you can understand when I say this, the one thing we don't need is a cash dump from a casino to complicate our municipal problems. Thank you."

Kevin Law: "Mary Boisvert."

Mary Boisvert: "My name is Mary Boisvert, and I currently reside at 55 Working Road in the Town of East Greenbush, in the County of Rensselaer, in the State of New York. I have lived at this address for the last 25 years, and I have lived in several other locations within the geographic area known as East Greenbush. My ancestors settled in East Greenbush from their way through Ellis Island from Italy in the hamlet of Prospect Heights, which they still remain. I am a graduate of the East Greenbush Central School District. My two adult children are graduates of the East Greenbush Central School District also, and they remain in the area. I stand before you to convey my opposition about why the Town of East Greenbush does not meet the criteria for this proposed casino. First, I would like to inform you that the elected town board officials did not do diligence in asking any of the preliminary important questions, such as what will be the impact to the town's infrastructure? No discussion about mitigating the effects or associated costs with a project of this magnitude. The second point being that we are not impoverished, as the following evidence will show you. The median individual income of a person in East Greenbush is \$50,704.00. A total of 1,183 results found that East Greenbush ranked 178th, with the median individual worker of the \$50,704.00. The per capita income is \$43,669.00. A total of 1,185 results found East Greenbush is ranked number 212th. The median family income is 106,815 US dollars. A total of 1,175 results found East Greenbush, New York is ranked 253, with the median family income of \$106,000. The median value of a home in East Greenbush is \$254,000.00. Out of a total of 1,249 owner-occupied houses, it found that East Greenbush ranked 454th. The poverty rate for East Greenbush is 3.4 percent. Of that, there are 152 total, families in poverty are 25. It is ranked 938 out of the total 1,136 results. The employment population of anyone 16 years or older in the Town of East Greenbush is 77.8 percent. It ranked 860 out of a total 1,186 towns. As my final plea, I implore you to please consider the facts and do what is the right thing for our Town of East Greenbush. Thank you."

Kevin Law: "Bob Wolfgang."

Bob Wolfgang: "Good afternoon gentlemen. Welcome to the Capital Region. Thank you for taking on the responsibility of this important decision, and I don't envy you, especially with the schedule that you have established for yourselves. My name is Bob Wolfgang. I am a 63-year native of the Capital Region. I, right now, am involved as a CEO of a private-investigation business located in East Greenbush. I live in West Sand Lake, which is in Rensselaer County, just bordering East Greenbush. I am here today to lend my support for the proposal for East Greenbush. And there are a couple of reasons why I believe in what they are doing over there. I currently serve, as I said, as a CEO of Tech Valley. My career has been a mixed one. I served for about 33 years in law enforcement. I left that field to get into tourism in the Albany area, and I ran, with a couple of partners, the Albany Aqueducts and Trolleys, which was an amphibious tour operation; the only amphibious tour company in New York State. We ran it for eight years, and we did well. We serviced about 175,000 people in the eight years that we worked, where we were showcasing the City of Albany. We basically acted as ambassadors for the region; not only limited to Albany, but we would do tours of Troy and other areas like Schenectady and other

points of interest. We have 400 years of history in Albany, so there was a great deal to show off, and it wasn't difficult. We ran into some problems, and about two years ago, we ended up ceasing operations. And one of the major reasons why we did that was we did not have that other large partner that was assisting us in drawing the people into the city. We wanted to make Albany a destination for tourists, and those 175,000 people came from all over the world. It was really rewarding to go and give them the experience of learning about the region. Well, I have not given up my interest in this whole tourism operation thing. I continue to maintain good relationships with people who are skilled and trying their best to make and put Albany on the map and attract people in; people like the Dutch Apple Cruise Lines, people like the folks who run the New York State Museum, the Institute of History and Art, and so forth. There are a lot of people out there who are really trying hard, but lacking again was that one partner who would exhibit an interest as working as a partner to try to help us. So, I have actually had conversations with some of the members of the team for the East Greenbush project, and I was pleased to find that they did share the vision, as far as the potential that Albany has to become a tourist destination. I feel that perhaps if this actually goes through that they will, in fact, assist those people. They will, it will be just enough to bring us up to that point where Albany will, in fact, be sought out by people as a place to visit. The 175,000 who rode with us or were our guests and enjoyed the region really were quite impressed with what that whole area, not just Albany, but the Capital Region had to offer. It is my hope that if the casino and resort go into East Greenbush that not only will they have that 400 years of history and all of the other things that we had to show off, but they will also have a quality casino and resort to visit while they are in the Capital Region. So I am coming from a little different standpoint and that is of tourism, and I hope that this is looked favorably upon, and I wish the best for whoever. Thanks very much."

Dennis Glazer: "I have a question. Why wouldn't the other casinos be that partner?"

Bob Wolfgang: "It is quite possible that they are, but I am not engaged in any conversation with any of the organizers from the other casinos. I happened to have the opportunity to do that with the people from East Greenbush, and again, I was very pleased with their vision and their response. I am not saying that the others wouldn't; I just haven't had the liberty to discuss that with them. Again, perhaps some of the people who are still involved in the tourism business in Albany have, but that is my personal contact, okay? "

Dennis Glazer: "Thank you."

Bob Wolfgang: "Thank you very much for your time, and best of luck."

Kevin Law: "Jerry Eisenberg."

Jerry Eisenberg: "Thank you for the opportunity to address you. My name is Jerry Eisenberg. I live at 212 Upper Mannix Road in East Greenbush. My husband and I built our existing home there more than 24 years ago, and we raised our family there. We selected East Greenbush and our home near Thompson Hill because we wanted a family-oriented community that had benefits of a semi-rural environment. I would never make the same choice again if there were to be a

casino sited in Thompson Hill. I would like to make four points that can be summarized as follows. One, East Greenbush does not need a casino. Two, a large and very committed group of East Greenbush residents do not want a casino. Three, Thompson Hill is the wrong location for a casino, and four, the Capital View project developers are the wrong people to trust with a casino project. I know you have heard a lot of these statistics already from members of the East Greenbush community who are very concerned about the potential of the casino, but I would like to reiterate some of these points to support my summary because they are important, and I don't think that you will find any of this information in the materials supplied by the Capital View Casino developers. East Greenbush does not need the casino. As of the last census, East Greenbush had an unemployment rate of less than three percent. That's less than half the state rate and far less than the national rate of almost eight percent. The median income of workers in East Greenbush has been reported to be between \$44,000.00 and \$48,000.00 or \$50,000.00, compared to a national median income of \$30,000.00. The median household income in East Greenbush, as you have heard today already, is someplace between 80,000 and 100,000 dollars a year in our recent two years. The poverty rate in East Greenbush has been consistently and significantly lower than the statewide average poverty rate. In East Greenbush, 97 percent of the population is recorded as having earned a high-school diploma. Almost 60 percent have earned Bachelor's Degrees, and close to 30 percent have professional degrees. Clearly, we are not a community in economic distress, which the constitutional amendment to authorize casinos upstate was explicitly designated to assist. We are a community that suffers from severe financial mismanagement, and we have been for some time, and under both political parties. A quick infusion of cash will not be the answer to curing the inability of our local town board members to act in a more fiscally responsible manner. In fact, it may do just the opposite; more pockets may end up being lined. Number two, East Greenbush does not want a casino. There has been a consistent and strenuous opposition to the East Greenbush casino expressed by members of our community. The petitions filed by Save East Greenbush, as you have heard, clearly demonstrate this. Suggestions to the contrary by the developers are purely disingenuous. At least 75 percent, if not more, of the people speaking in each of the public comment opportunities before our town government identified themselves as East Greenbush residents by address and were opposed to the casino. We are committed to retaining the essential quality of our community and will continue to fight for that, including demanding a full SECRA review of the project, which is currently only at its very earliest of scoping stages. The opposition is clearly committed to pursuing any and all legal action that might be necessary down the road. Thompson Hill is the wrong place for a casino, as you have heard for the third point, for reasons that range from it being a residential buffer area, to being next to a Girl Scout camp, to being inconsistent with our master plan, to having a moratorium imposed by the Department of Environmental Conservation on additional sewer hookups. I am not quite sure how legally you could go forward with that still in place. Finally, the Capital View project developers are the wrong people to trust. They have tried at every turn to make this process as opaque to the community as possible. They have met on two-by-two and one-by-one to specifically avoid open meetings, laws, and every FOIL response that we sought was clearly showing that the developer was trying to shield as much as possible to public information. Thank you."

Kevin Law: "Thank you Jerry. Folks, as I mentioned, we need five minutes for the technical folks to get us back to be live web stream. One issue, not really for us in the room, but for others watching us; the video is still not operating on the web, but the audio is, so anybody who is trying to listen in is hearing everything we are saying, but just not seeing it. However, we are recording everything, so eventually once it is downloaded to the website, nobody will have missed a thing because they will be able to both see and hear it, but everybody is hearing what we are doing. They are just not seeing us for the last hour, so they are going to continue to try and fix it, but it is still not fixed, so we are going to continue because we still have lots of people who have a lot of things to say. And to the extent that any of you want to group your comments together, that would be welcomed as well."

Dennis Glazer: "But what is the fun in that?"

Kevin Law: "So we are going to go now with the sign-in list for today. We just did a **trou**ch of the registered list, and we are going back to the sign-in list of today, and the first person is Jeffrey Handy. Is Jeffrey here? Your name is Kevin, right? You were really good before, but we don't need to hear from you again."

Dennis Glazer: "I remember what you said."

Kevin Law: "But then you would be two people. We can't allow substitutions. How about Dwight Hazard?"

Audience person: "He left too."

Kevin Law: "Were they both for Howe?"

Audience person: "Yes."

Kevin Law: "Alright, Gene, you speak for Dwight and Jeffrey."

Dennis Glazer: "But you still only get five minutes, preferably less."

Gene Malone: "I was going to ask you that. Good afternoon. I want to thank you for the opportunity to address the panel. My name is Gene Malone. I am a supervisor from the Town of Schoharie. For decades, the people of Schoharie County have been waiting for the opportunity to participate in an economic development project of this nature; a project that would bring opportunity for employment, tax relief, and prosperity to our county. Our county has suffered through immense devastation in the wake of Hurricane Irene, and its residents have strived to put our communities back together again, even three years later. Statistics will show that we have suffered the loss of the most populous in the state, not only because of Irene, but because of the lack of opportunity, as well as taxation. Our elderly have suffered some major setbacks with respect to assistance due to the lack of funding. Due to the lack of funding, some of our youth programs have also either been cut back or eliminated, and the county continues to struggle

monetarily to keep up with state and federal mandates, and the list of hardships goes on and on and on. As a county representative, I have watched and listened to the consistent outcries of my constituents concerning opportunity, and now right before us exists the possibility that our hopes and prayers may be answered. We understand that Schoharie County meets all of the criteria set forth to qualify for a casino to be built within its borders, and we welcome the opportunity. Howe Caverns has served as an attraction to hundreds of thousands of people, and we are convinced that it will be patronized by millions of people with your approved casino. So I ask you to please look favorably on our county, and give us this much-needed-economic engine, which will help bring some financial stability, as well as opportunity for future generations for the people of Schoharie County. And as I walk away from you, please study the back of my shirt. Thank you.”

Kevin Law: “Thank you Supervisor. Next, Elliot Houser. Is Elliot here? Rebecca Stark and Scott Ferguson.”

Audience: “What time is it?” (laughter)

Rebecca Stark: “Hello, my name is Rebecca Stark. I am the new tourism coordinator for Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce. I am also born and raised in Schoharie. I went to Schoharie Central School, and then I went to SUNY Cobleskill to go to a university, not sure really what I wanted to do at the time, but realized that any job I ever had had to do with travel and tourism in some way, starting at Howe Cavern. Now, I got my Associate’s Degree from SUNY Cobleskill. I took a few travel classes there, but in reality, not that much else with their travel program, so I looked for other opportunities. I ended up going to the University of Hawaii to study travel-industry management, yes, and then from there, I went to go work in the cruise-line industry. But now, I am back on land, back home, and the tourism coordinator, and I am excited for this opportunity that we have right in front of our faces. And I would just like to say, enough about me, this isn’t about me; this is about everyone out here that is in yellow, so I would like to take a minute to have you stand up or come on up to support us and let your presence be known. We have all the support. We have heard a lot of negativity this morning on this side of the room; I would like to show you how much we want it, we need it. We will gladly take all the opposition from East Greenbush and bring it over to support Howe Caverns.”

Kevin Law: “I now know why you hired her at the Chamber of Commerce.”

Dennis Glazer: “Really.”

Scott Ferguson: “I take credit for that. Hi, I am Scott Ferguson. Thank you for this opportunity for this open forum. I am the owner of a small business that operates primarily in Schoharie County. I am also a parent of eight children. Lastly, I am the president of the Board of the Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce, and I support Howe Caverns Resort and Casino. I have been a member of the Chamber of Commerce since 2010. During this time, I have watched the struggles experienced by the people in Schoharie County in the areas of unemployment, underemployment, local career employment options for our residents leaving, and the destruction

of the flood, where residents and businesses lost everything. I have also watched the resilience of the residents in trying to recover from the flood and the loss of the large employers that have left the community, but there is only so much one can do by themselves. The county and the town have insured the water and sewer infrastructures in place for this casino site. We have done our part. We have town board support, county executive support, Chamber of Commerce support, and as you have seen today, resident and community support. We have people with great work ethics. We have a local state university providing two-and-four-year degrees that have direct application to the casino in our town, right there. Local businesses and residents have also spent the last eight months privatizing tourism for Schoharie County. We want people to come to our county, so much that we voluntarily have given up our time to put a plan in place to focus on bringing tourists to our county and the surrounding economic region. We believe that the plan for Howe Caverns Resort and Casino builds on the concept of Schoharie County being a destination. This will not only create an anchor employer offering well-paying jobs, but will also bring visitors to the other small businesses of our county, providing new sources of revenue and additional jobs for our residents. This is more than a casino, and it fits in our community. We need an opportunity in Schoharie County. We are a great fit for the governor's casino site selection criteria. This project is big, with incredibly large economic multiplier effects on the surrounding rural counties, including Otsego, Montgomery, in addition to Schoharie County. The area definitely needs the economic help. It is our time. Please give Schoharie County the opportunity to make you all proud, it is our time."

Dennis Glazer: "I have been nominated by the board to ask the simplest questions, so my question is how would one get to Howe Caverns from here and how long would it take?"

Scott Ferguson: "188, about 25 minutes."

Dennis Glazer: "Thank you."

Kevin Law: "Matt Johnson. Is Matt here? Matt Johnson. Susan Penagan. Is Susan here? Marilyn Harmer. Paul Falati. Clarence Schmidt. This is an easy way to get through the list. We have got a lot of names here, so we will get through them. We will try to be fair because some people will be here. Carlton Moxan. Matt Ostrander. Adam McMullan. This is not tomorrow's list, is it? How about the Cobleskill Town Supervisor, Leo McAllister?"

Leo McAllister: "One out of five isn't too bad. Thank you for letting me speak. I am Leo McAllister, Town Supervisor and businessman for forty years in Cobleskill. I have to admit that the idea of a casino in our area left me with some doubts when I first thought about it, and when the idea was broached at our county board of supervisors. And in fact, we had about a split, half and half that wanted it and didn't want it. After that meeting, we were invited up to Howe Caverns to have them tell us what their proposal was because we hadn't seen anything about that before. They showed us the plans, preliminary plans, they talked to us about what they might want to do. We asked them to come to our board of supervisors meeting the next month, and they did a presentation, a lively discussion followed, and there was overwhelming support for a casino in this valley. The next step, of course, was to come to the Town of Cobleskill because

Howe Caverns is situated in the Town of Cobleskill. We had a public hearing called for it at our next board meeting. All of the councilmen on our board talked to people in the community throughout that week and two weeks prior to that. I, probably the most doubtful of all of them, talked to a number of people in the area where the Turning Stone Casino is. It is a rural area similar to us; with the towns of Vernon, Verona, Sherrill, and Oneida. I talked to law enforcement, I talked to other officials in those areas; what were the concerns that they had, and the concerns I had; I asked them to speak to them; crime, drug use, all of the things that we think about sometimes when we think about a casino. They assured me that they had no significant increase in any of those areas. However, they said infrastructure is critical; your roads, your bridges, your water, and sewer. As someone just mentioned, we are just finishing a water/sewer project right now. We had our public hearing. We had a nice, lively discussion with overwhelming support from the town, and the board passed it unanimously. Folks, if you look at the site, if you look at the criteria that you have; I think that this is a perfect site. You've got a casino and hotel in this section on a 300-acre site overlooking the valley. You have got another hotel with a water park and an indoor-outdoor water park. Along with that, you have your current Howe Cavern site with a museum, and then you have a dinosaur park. This will be the most unique site in all of New York State and even on the East Coast if you approve this. It is halfway between Albany and Cooperstown. Cooperstown in the summer is mobbed. This will be another destination site. And if you talk about economics, this program would reduce the unemployment in Schoharie County by over 50 percent. There is not another site that will do that. This program will add 40 percent, I mean 20 percent to our county budget, over 40 percent to our school district and to the town. There isn't a site that has that kind of economic impact. Folks, I thank you for your time. I urge you to consider our site."

Dennis Glazer: "Supervisor?"

Leo McAllister: "I didn't think I was supposed to get questions."

Dennis Glazer: "You mentioned roads, but you didn't speak to them. Would you talk to the adequacy of the roads?"

Leo McAllister: "I am glad you mentioned that, and I should have mentioned that further. The interesting thing about this site is I88 is approximately a mile and a half to two miles off the site, so you have a perfect location there. We have main roads going into that. The two roads that we need to have improved, the developers will improve for us. It is going to be very, very simple. There will be no congestion, and that is what makes this so unique. They will develop those roads correctly, and other than that, you will have no problems with roads and infrastructure. Any other questions?"

Dennis Glazer: "No thank you."

Leo McAllister: "Thank you so much."

Dennis Glazer: "Thank you Supervisor."

Kevin Law: “Adam McMullan? Is Adam here? He went back on the bus this morning? Alright. Jamie Better? Cody Merman? Hal Better? Debra Moyer? Hi Debra, come on up.”

Debra Moyer: “Good afternoon. As a resident of a prospering community, my husband and I are very much opposed to the development of a casino in East Greenbush. First of all, East Greenbush is not an economically-needy area. It does not meet the intent of the Upstate Gaming and Economic Development Act. Secondly, as I am sure you have already heard, Thompson Hill Road is a residential neighborhood. It is near a Girl Scout camp, a Montessori school, and Columbia High School. Not an appropriate place for a gaming establishment in our opinion. Worst of all, the Town of East Greenbush Board failed its citizens by not having an open process at the onset. We feel that there are other communities that would be more conducive to a casino, where residents would welcome it. We, therefore, respectfully request that East Greenbush not be chosen as one of the sites slated for the development of a casino. Thank you.”

Kevin Law: “Okay, let’s continue. Toby Salnear? Glen McClane? Hi Glen.”

Glen McLane: “Good afternoon everyone. I am honored to stand before you. My name is Glen McLane, Security Shift Manager at the SugarHouse Casino in Philadelphia and Rush Street Gaming. I just want to say SugarHouse is a great company, and it has brought so much of a positive reality to the city. It has given families stability and hope. It has given people a second chance, who may have lost jobs in the past, but it has given them a second chance to start over and build a strong family. It uplifts communities. Delaware Avenue in Philadelphia, now with the expansion of SugarHouse building on Delaware Avenue is now a light to the city. SugarHouse does much for its employees and its customers, for instance for its customers, the many giveaways that it has for its customers, also free concerts for its customers. For its employees, 401K retirement, bonuses, and it also has yoga classes. We created happy videos and things of this nature for its employees to make it a place to come to work. When we wake up in the morning, we look forward to going to work. It also has great health benefits, tuition reimbursements, and also SugarHouse and Rush Street Gaming has brought a lot of positive outlooks to Philadelphia. Clearly, the positive outlooks outweigh the negatives, if there are any. In closing, four years ago, there was a strong opposition for SugarHouse to open; strong opposition, protestors. Four years later, where are they? You know where they are? They are inside enjoying the festivities at SugarHouse. They are inside enjoying the concerts. They are inside enjoying the food at the restaurants. Also, Rush Street Gaming has been voted the number-one place to work at all of its facilities by its employees. Thank you for the time.”

Kevin Law: “Glen, a question please.”

Glen McLane: “Sure.”

Dennis Glazer: “Glen, do you know what groups of workers at SugarHouse are organized or represented by union and which are not, so far as you know?”

Glen McLane: "Well, there is one union organization there. I am not too familiar with it, but we don't have, it is not really heavy, and I don't want to speak out of line of something I don't have a great knowledge of, but I just want to speak of the positive employment ratio that all of our employees and team members enjoy at SugarHouse. That is what I am concerned about, and that is mostly what I deal with."

Dennis Glazer: "Glen, you are not a union man."

Glen McLane: "No I am not. Anything else?"

Kevin Law: "Thank you very much Glen."

Glen McLane: "You're welcome."

Kevin Law: "Next, we are joined by the Chairman of the Columbia County Board of Supervisors, Patrick Grattan."

Patrick Grattan: "Thank you very much. As Chairman of the Columbia County Board of Supervisors, it gives me great pleasure to offer the support of Columbia County for the proposed Hard Rock Hotel and Casino to be located at the De Laet's Landing in the City of Rensselaer. In doing so, we joined ten other counties that support locating the casino in the City of Rensselaer. The Hard Rock Café brand name is recognized internationally for the quality of its facilities and its vendors of world-class food and beverages. The marriage of Hard Rock Café and the casino will make the facility doubly attractive. As such, it will be a destination for entertainment seekers in the City of Rensselaer. Since Capital Off-Track Betting has partnered with the proposal, 19 counties in Upstate New York will benefit. As a result, all of the counties will see an increase in their revenues. Those who fear a downturn in revenues due to casino competition, should realize that the Rensselaer proposal will include a race book in the facility. All of those upstate counties will benefit from the increased revenues. Columbia County will receive twice as much as the county currently does if the Hard Rock Café Hotel and Casino is located in De Laet's Landing. Many of our residents are currently employed in the Albany/Rensselaer area. I am sure that more than a few residents will take advantage of the easy commute to the City of Rensselaer and find employment at the Hard Rock Casino and Hotel. Columbia County faces the same obligations as do other upstate counties. Replacement of roads and bridges, maintaining police and fire protection, and continuing to protect all of our residents, including the most needy, through our social and healthcare networks. The task of maintaining services is not easy given the ever-diminishing state and federal assistance. We cannot expect our taxpayers to bear the entire burden of governmental services, nor can we turn our backs on new sources of revenue. The proposed Hard Rock Café Hotel and Casino will bring much-needed revenue to Columbia County. Therefore, the board of supervisors of Columbia County offers its support for the location at De Laet's Landing in the City of Rensselaer for the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. Thank you very much."

Dennis Glazer: "Excuse me. Can I ask a question? How much do you receive now from Capital OTB?"

Patrick Grattan: "I will try to get back to you with a number on that."

Kevin Law: "Thank you Supervisor. Now we go back to, it's three o'clock on the button; we go back to our preregistered list for the three-o'clock portion. First speaker is Ed Kosiur."

Ed Kosiur: "Thank you. Good afternoon gentlemen. My name is Ed Kosiur, and I am here today to speak in support of granting the casino license for the Capital District Region to Rush Gaming and for the establishment of the Rivers Casino and Resort at Mohawk Harbor. I have been a resident of the City of Schenectady since 1987, and I have had the pleasure of being elected not only as a member of the Schenectady County Legislature, but as a member of the Board of Education for the City of Schenectady School District, and currently I am a city councilman for the City of Schenectady. I truly understand the unique way the need for support of this wonderful project. The legislative purpose of Proposition I is to promote job growth, increase aid to schools, and permit local governments to lower property taxes through revenues generated. Let me touch on these three criteria. As Vice-Chairman of the Schenectady County Legislature in 2004, I had seen firsthand how both the city and the county had to raise property taxes by some 25 percent in the city and 20 percent in the county in 2003. Over the last three years, the Schenectady City School District has been forced to make staff and program cuts; over 100 teachers and 100 blue-collar paraprofessionals, and close schools, and use our reserves to close budget gaps, totaling about 30 million dollars. I would also like to point out that over 71 percent of the students in the Schenectady City School District received free and reduced lunch. Also, we have the 13th highest concentration of poverty, not in the state, but in the nation. In fact, all of our students are now receiving free and reduced lunch at our schools through a federally-subsidized grant due to the high rate of poverty and the low household income in our city. My tax bill as a City of Schenectady resident went from a little over \$2,000.00 a year in 1987 to nearly \$6,000.00 today, based on my home, which is assessed at \$125,000.00, and that is including our STAR exemption, with 52 percent of that tax bill going to the City of Schenectady School District. As I spoke with Mayor McCarthy some time ago, I stated we could pave every street, replace every sidewalk, all the curbs; however, if we do not have a strong school district, we will not encourage our young families to stay and invest in the city. The Rivers Casino and Resort at Mohawk Harbor will bring an estimated five million dollars in gaming tax revenues to both the city and Schenectady County. By the way, there are no pilot agreements here in this project, as well as more than two million dollars estimated for the Schenectady City School District. As a city councilman, led by our Council President Peggy King, who does apologize for not being here this afternoon, but who is sending her written comments in the mail. We moved forward with a resolution on June 9th of this year, stating that the host municipality payments to be received by the City of Schenectady will be used exclusively for the reduction of property taxes in the City of Schenectady. It was passed unanimously. This is a commitment that we made to our taxpayers, and it is a commitment that we intend to follow. We estimate this impact to be approximately a 15-percent tax cut in property taxes. Finally, and perhaps the most important, is jobs. With 100 percent support from the Chamber of the Schenectady County, the

Schenectady County Legislature, the Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation, and, of course, Metroplex; we intend to work very closely with Rush Street Gaming to bring approximately 1,159 new jobs, 387 direct and induced jobs for a total of over 1,500 new jobs. Not to mention the 700 plus jobs for the construction of the facility. Total labor and income is estimated to exceed 74 million dollars, and total spending in Schenectady County is estimated to be at 229 million. These new jobs at the Rivers Casino and Resort at Mohawk Harbor will be available to our urban population and to our minority population, far more readily than any other proposal. Finally, Mohawk Harbor is the only site that has a connection to a major urban downtown. The County and the City of Schenectady have done extensive work with Metroplex and, of course, the Galesi Group, which has been a wonderful partner and has helped to begin the revival of the Schenectady downtown in the past decade. But much work still needs to be done. The siting of the riverfront casino will extend downtown to the river, through Erie Boulevard and help complete a stunning transformation of the Schenectady downtown. We are not shovel ready, we are shovels in the ground. In conclusion, shall we ask ourselves the following questions: What is the best team? Who has the best proposal? But most importantly, what community and city is in most need, looking at Proposition 1? The answer is self-evident; it is the City of Schenectady. The Rivers Casino and Resort at Mohawk Harbor is the place. Thank you for your consideration.”

Kevin Law: “Thank you. Thank you, Ed. Next is Mary Buszuwski.”

Mary Buszuwski: “Good afternoon. My name is Mary Buszuwski, and I am the Chief Executive Officer for the Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York, and I want to thank the New York State Gaming Commission and the Gaming Location Board for giving me the opportunity to come before you today to share the concerns of the council regarding the possible location of a casino next to our camp for girls in East Greenbush, New York. The Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York includes a fifteen-county area that serves over 10,000 girls with the generous assistance of over 2,500 adult volunteer leaders who lead our troops today. Our outdoor camps are one of the most important elements of our programs for girls. For over sixty years, the Girl Scouts have operated Camp Is-Sho-Da, the camp located next to the proposed casino site. On over 98 acres, we have brought girls the opportunity to learn how to swim and how to boat on our five-acre pond, gone on various nature hikes along the many trails in the camp, nurture a love for the outdoors and the need to preserve our outdoor resources, and the opportunity to make friends and memories that will last a lifetime. Camp Is-Sho-Da is the most highly-attended camp amongst all of our camps in our jurisdiction. We provide year-round outdoor experiences for girls, both through our summer program and our weekend encampments throughout the year. Annually some 2,000 girls attend Camp Is-Sho-Da, and we know that for many families in the Capital Region, this is a very convenient location. I am here today to share the council’s deep concerns about the proposed location for the Capital View Casino and Resort in East Greenbush. We believe that this adult-entertainment facility will jeopardize our ability to provide the level of outdoor experience that will allow for a true immersion into the outdoors without the intrusion of urban living. Our concerns about the location for this casino are due to the following reasons: We assume that the casino will be successful, and as a result, we are going to see significantly higher volumes of traffic. We are going to experience increased levels of noise, we are going to

see excessive lightening as a result of the casino's presence that will spill into the camp environment, an obstructed view with the existence of a multistory hotel, and concerns around the general safety of girls, troop leaders, and camp counselors due to possible, again, attendance from the casino itself. Our national organization recently released a comprehensive report about the long-term benefits to girls from outdoor experiences provided by programs like those offered by Camp Is-Sho-Da. We strive to encourage more girls to participate in the outdoors. But we believe that if a casino is built at the proposed site, interest and attendance at Camp Is-Sho-Da will decline significantly. The Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York is not in favor of a casino in East Greenbush. We believe there are more appropriate options before the Gaming Commission for the location of the casino, and we hope that you will give this some consideration. Thank you for your time this afternoon to share the Girl Scouts Council's position on the casino application for East Greenbush."

Dennis Glazer: "Actually I have one question. Would the Girl Scouts feel the same about the Hard Rock Casino?"

Mary Buszuwski: "We have absolutely no opinion on any of the other three applications."

Dennis Glazer: "Thank you very much for your honesty."

Kevin Law: "Wesley Sweeny."

Wesley Sweeny: "Good afternoon. My name is Wesley Sweeny, and I am a certified public accountant and a taxpayer of East Greenbush. Thank you for taking the time to listen to the residents of the Capital District regarding the location of a casino in this area. I have three points that I would like to bring to your attention regarding some concerns my wife, Maureen, and I have. The first point is who is in charge? The East Greenbush casino developer has offered to provide 25 percent of the jobs at the casino to Albany residents. Maybe there are not enough people in Rensselaer County to fill those jobs? The developer has also promised the Albany mayor to use businesses in Albany to provide services at the casino. Again, there must not be enough of those vendors in Rensselaer County. Since the Albany mayor has publically supported the East Greenbush casino, Albany residents will get jobs, Albany businesses will get work, and Albany will be given eleven million dollars from the developer if the casino is built in East Greenbush. If it walks like a duck, if it quacks like a duck, it is a duck. What I just described sounds like a bribe to me. The East Greenbush developer is bypassing Rensselaer County and the Town of East Greenbush. It appears like the developer would rather be in Albany than in East Greenbush. The developer should be offering the eleven million dollars to the county where the casino will be built, and then that county and town can decide to reach out to other municipalities for assistance. What is the next step? Give eleven million dollars to Saratoga County? The second point I would like to bring up is the terrible fit that East Greenbush is for a casino. The location that the committee picked should be able to control the casino, not the other way around. The intention of the 2013 Upstate Gaming Economic Development Act was to enhance the financial condition of localities in the state that have suffered from economic hardship. Statistics don't lie. The median household income in East

Greenbush is over 75,000, which is almost double that of Schenectady. East Greenbush has an unemployment rate of 3.5 percent; Schenectady is over 6.2. About 4 percent of the population of East Greenbush is below the poverty line, compared to over 22 percent in Schenectady. East Greenbush is not suffering economic distress; it is a town whose municipal finances have been mismanaged. The New York State Comptroller Office issued a report on November 16, 2012, and it may be viewed on the New York State website. The report states that over the last several years, the town has experienced significant signs of fiscal stress and deteriorating financial condition. The town's accounting records were not accurate. Due to poor conditions of the town's accounting records, town officials could not determine with any degree of certainty what the town's fund balances actually were at the end of 2010 fiscal year or for the most part of 2011. The town was even offered a grant of millions of dollars by New York State, but they had to provide audited financial statements, and they could not provide any audited records since 2009. That is on the East Greenbush website. The last completed audit was in 2009. The Town of East Greenbush has been irresponsible in the way that it handled money in the past, and it has shown no signs of changing their ways. The third and final point is location. This is the most important point to me. I hope the location committee will take the time to visit all the proposed casino sites. What is written on paper does not do justice to what I see when standing on the actual location. The proposed East Greenbush site is still zoned as a residential buffer, as I speak today. It is situated between a Girl Scout camp, as you just heard, and a school. As you drive up to the proposed East Greenbush site, please make sure you notice the beautiful houses that were built on the hill to take in the magnificent views of the Capital Region. East Greenbush has a long-range plan for this hill, and the intent was for sweeping views of the Capital Region by residents. I know the task at hand is daunting for this committee, and as you have heard today, the only site that really has opposition is East Greenbush. That's because East Greenbush has always been a bedroom community, where people escape the chaos of the tri-county cities and live a calm and peaceful life. Please let East Greenbush stay a bedroom community, and put the casino in a place that needs it. Again, primarily I ask the committee, I know you have done a lot, but physical inspection of each location is a must. Thank you."

Kevin Law: "Thank you Wesley. Suzanne Aiardo."

Suzanne Aiardo: "I don't know about you guys, but my head is spinning, really, with all of these facts. What I want to talk about is not statistics, but about secrecy. Fred LeBrun stated in his *Sunday Times Union* column, 'The heart of the acquisition to a casino in East Greenbush is not just about the likes and dislikes. It is about the failure of town government to properly engage its citizens, including critics, about the yes or no of a casino in an open process early on.' Rita Cox, in her presentation to this body last week, assured you that there was community outreach on the part of the developers. I can state to you that there was not ever any outreach, and there continues to be none to this date. Freedom-of-information-documents obtained by an East Greenbush citizen revealed that every effort was made on the part of the town officials and Capital View public relations people to keep the initial press a secret from the public. The public was not even aware of discussions until April 16th, when a town board unanimously approved a resolution inviting casino developers into the town. In fact, some of them thought that they were voting for something else; very interesting. The town pledged its alleged support on the

November vote on the referendum, but that vote, as you very well know, concerned the siting of casinos anywhere in New York State; not in East Greenbush. The FOIL documents detail the developer's desire to keep public participation to a minimum by limiting public meetings to one to avoid opposition, and that's exactly what they had, they had one. The FOIL notes indicate, and I am going to paraphrase, *'Do just one. If you do anymore, we will end up like E23'*, which is the casino in Albany; the proposal that was shot down. *'Anymore meetings will continue to promote negativity on the part of the public.'* Individual half-hour meetings were held with town board members to avoid the open meetings law. By the way, this FOIL that I am talking about has been submitted to you by Save East Greenbush, it is a big, huge binder. If you want more information on these meetings and other select procedures conducted by the town board and the casino people, you have primary material before you. The opinions of East Greenbush citizens were never solicited. Even after citizens called for a vote, we were told that there was not enough time. However, some town employees knew about the casino talks as far back as February, but were held to secrecy for the good of the town. I know this for a fact because I spoke directly to one of the employees. This entire process has been an insult to the citizens of East Greenbush. We have been insulted and plagued by our town officials and by Saratoga Casino and Raceway and Churchill Downs. There are many other reasons for not picking East Greenbush. Please end this nightmare for us and site a casino in a more appropriate place where people want it. By the way, I am a big horseracing fan, and I saw the presentation that Capital View showed you of comparing the Capital View Casino with the Saratoga track and Churchill Downs. This is no Churchill downs, this is no Kentucky Derby; this is a local casino that is going to prey on people. I like gambling, I really do. I like horseracing. I had a couple of horses a while back, but it does not belong in East Greenbush. Please look at the site and see that beautiful land up there, and I welcome you guys."

Kevin Law: "Thank you Suzanne. Next up, Dan Dwyer, the mayor of the Town of Rensselaer."

Dan Dwyer: "Good afternoon. First of all, if I may, my name is Dan Dwyer. I am the mayor of the City of Rensselaer. Thank you for the opportunity to address you. First, I would like to start by saying that we received a tremendous letter of support and acknowledgment from Senator Breslin and Assemblyman McDonald, saying that the site in the City of Rensselaer is the site, meeting all of the qualifications completely. First I would like to give you some facts about my city and poverty. Sixty-six percent of the city property is tax exempt. That is higher than any other city in the state. Our unemployment rate is nine percent. Fifteen percent of residents are living in poverty in the City of Rensselaer. More than 16 percent of residents are on food stamps. Thirty percent of children under five are living in poverty. We have had a 40 percent decline in population since 1960. Some cities have beautiful, state-of-the-art technology buildings. Other localities have state-created public authorities, backing their projects every step of the way. I think those are great things, but in Rensselaer we are fighting the good fight, and we are fighting it alone. We are doing everything we can to bring our city back, but it is an effort that needs an anchor or catalyst; one big project that could change everything. When voters approved a referendum on casino gambling last year, we knew we had our opportunity. That opportunity is possible for several reasons. First, is location, location, location. Every casino operator who looked at our site said that this is it. This is the best location. It is on the

Hudson River, with a fantastic view of Albany in the background. It is on that Hudson, one of our most valuable resources. De Laet's Landing on the Hudson is simply the most scenic spot in the region, as I said, with views of downtown Albany. It is approximately 200 feet from Albany, 200 yards, with access from I90, 787, and 87; and its proximity to the train station, which is the ninth busiest train station in the country. The second is our team. With Capital OTB, a Rensselaer casino would benefit 19 counties, and in essence, what we are doing is spreading the wealth that we are going to get, the money cash flow, to 19 counties. That is far more counties than any other proposal and any of the other three proposed regions. More revenue would be distributed to the largest area of the state. The Hard Rock at Rensselaer also has the most local support by far. We have only had two people speak in opposition. The 12 counties support our plan. I want to take a moment to thank them and mention them by name. They are Clinton County, Columbia, Cortland, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Herkimer, Madison, St. Lawrence, Washington, and Rensselaer County; all are supporters. The support we have earned means we are truly a regional project. We benefit the entire area from Rensselaer east, to Madison west, and every locality in between. We, alone, can make that claim. Hard Rock is the only true global brand pursuing a Capital Region casino. Rensselaer will be on par with other Hard Rock properties across the country and around the world. An example would be Tampa, Las Vegas, San Francisco, Lake Tahoe, and Rensselaer. For a person who represents a city of 9,000 people, it is incredible to think about people traveling to Hard Rock. They book Hard Rock trips because they want a one-of-a-kind experience. I am sure a lot of people in this room have been to the Hard Rock somewhere. In my office, we call it the Hard Rock effect. Even though we haven't been awarded a casino, take my word, Rensselaer is already experiencing the Hard Rock effect. Our director of planning has fielded many, many questions and calls from companies in New York and around the country inquiring about vacant lands in the city, and one of the main questions is, 'How far is the property from the Hard Rock?' The Hard Rock would be a catalyst unleashing a new era for my city and its residents, and the residents are ready. I would like to point out that we do not have to go far outside for the financing of this if awarded. We are number one, shovel ready. It is there, it is clear. Number two, the financing: Och-Ziff, one of the largest hedge funds, is ready to commit any amount of money that needs, 280 million dollars. So, please bear with me."

Kevin Law: "We are out of time, so if you could close now."

Dan Dwyer: "We have received many results from the traffic study. I am compelled to clear up one thing from last week's meeting. There was a reference to a traffic cross that is on Memorial Bridge from Albany. We received results from the traffic study from three different engineering firms, and a great many hit it right on the head and said the traffic analysis shows that traffic operation on Broadway are very good and will remain so, even with development of the casino site. And here is the great part; during the typical peak hours, there is a ten-second delay, that is about all there is to it. In summary, I would like to say we have local support. Our economic impact to the community is jobs, not only for the people of the City of Rensselaer, but Albany and around the revenue stream. And here is one important thing: In the presentation the other day, it was stated that approximately 18 to 20 million dollars in increased revenue will come from the Hard Rock Casino. What that amounts to is 48 percent of that money goes to the state.

The state desperately needs money, so on top of the actual cash-flow revenue, they are going to generate 20 million dollars more for the state. I thank you very much for your time. I appreciate it very much. Thank you.”

Kevin Law: “Thank you. Melvin Minty. John, you will be on deck.”

Melvin Minty: “Thank you for the opportunity and thank everyone for their patience.”

Kevin Law: “Will people take their conversations outside please and show respect for your neighbors.”

Melvin Minty: “I am a resident of Schenectady County and specifically the Township of Rotterdam, New York. I don’t represent anyone but myself and the people of Schenectady County, who are for the casino in Schenectady County, and that is my position. I am going to talk half the time about myself because I am a braggart and also a pompous ass, at times. I am a businessman. I had a business, family-owned business, in the downtown area of Schenectady, next to the Crown Company, for 47 years I ran it. At the urging of my wife, I retired at the age of 62, and I was home for one week, and she said, ‘You are in my way. You are home every day.’ And she wanted me to retire. Seventeen years later now, I am still working in my business from my home. Some of the things that I have done in the past, just so you know why I am here, is I have been called once in my life a visionary. I created the free parking system that we have in Schenectady. In 1979, it came to fruition. I was a vice-president and president of the Downtown Business Community for a few years, and the business community was complaining about no parking because of the malls coming in with free parking. I created that and worked on it for a number of years, and in 1979, it became a reality. I am one of the original three incorporators of Proctors Theater. That was not my idea, but I was asked to sit on the committee to see if we could form a theater and ended up being one of the incorporators and on the board for six years. I am also one of the originators of the Christmas Parade in Schenectady. I worked on that as a member of our Downtown Schenectady Business Community. I have done a number of other things, so I am going to stop bragging. The thing is this; I looked at the areas, and no disrespect to any of the other areas. They made great presentations today and many great arguments with a lot of technical things that I am not going to get into. The statistics are overwhelming. And everyone could use it to a great degree, but looking at the map and looking at the logistics and looking at all the communities that need employment, in downtown Schenectady, we have the roads, and that is a question that has been asked. We have ways to get to our facility that is being planned for the city, the downtown, and the county. Amsterdam has come to realize that they are only fifteen-to-twenty minutes away. Albany is only fifteen-or-twenty minutes away. Rensselaer is not very far, and neither is Howe Caverns, they said 25 minutes away. Employment will be across the region when it is built in the downtown area of Schenectady. It is more centrally located to spread employment to help all the communities in the Capital Region. Instead of being at one end, again no disrespect of the Capital Region, or at the other end of the Capital Region, it will be easy for people from all areas to find employment in this kind of facility. In addition, I don’t know if I am correct, but my understanding is that in Rensselaer, there isn’t access to the water exactly. They have been talking about the Hudson

River. Well I will talk about the Mohawk. My understanding is we will have access to the river in our planned facility in downtown Schenectady. We are now working on it, and I say we, but I don't have anything really to do with it, but they are going to build the hotel, and they are going to build the apartments, and work has already started in that area. If you really take a look at the areas and look at the maps and look at the facilities that are being constructed, you will see that it is a very comprehensive setup that will have a lot more jobs, in my opinion, than the 1,200 being spouted off, which is 400 for each eight-hour period, three times for 24 hours the casino will be open. One more thing, we do have the bus transportation, and we have the education system in Schenectady to help people who wish to get into the gaming business, to learn about casinos. The college has that in downtown Schenectady; I believe it is SCC. I haven't studied all of this other than I am the visionary who sees that the benefit to the Capital Region really happened to turn out to be in the downtown Schenectady area. I thank you. I have three things to give you. I have some paperwork."

Dennis Glazer: "Give them to Kristin please, and show your copies to all of us."

Melvin Minty: "I know you want dessert, so I brought you some things, payola, my payola is.."

Dennis Glazer: "We are not allowed to accept gifts."

Melvin Minty: "It's dessert."

Kevin Law: "Thank you Melvin. Next up is John LaPointe, the vice-chairman of the Washington County Board of Supervisors. Remember folks, we have five minutes or less for each speaker."

John LaPointe: "I will be a lot less than that. I am John LaPointe, Washington County Vice-Chair. Washington County joined with ten other counties in offering the Hard Rock our exclusive support. Under the Hard Rock proposal, because of their partnership with Capital OTB, nineteen counties in Upstate New York will benefit from the casino in the City of Rensselaer. More upstate taxpayers will benefit from the Hard Rock project than any other project in the Capital Region. We also believe that in the ever-competitive market of casinos, Hard Rock, because of their name recognition and track record, offers the best opportunity for long-term success. Washington County will receive the largest revenue available under all proposals from Hard Rock, based on the annual-revenue projections submitted through the RFA. The proposal will prove an increased opportunity for jobs that will be available for our residents in a fifty-mile radius. In addition, because Washington County membership and with Capital District OTB, will receive increased revenues from OTB due to their partnering with the casino project. Currently, we distributed over two million dollars to the sixteen counties and the City of Schenectady. I, John LaPointe, Vice-Chairman of the Washington County Board of Supervisors and the Washington County Board of Supervisors Representative on the OTB Board of Directors, I strongly support the Hard Rock Casino proposal. Thank you very much."

Kevin Law: "Thank you. Karen Marshall. Les Apple. Marie Cookson."

Marie Cookson: “Why I am opposed to the proposed casino, known as Capitol Hill Casino and Resort, on Thompson Hill Road in East Greenbush, New York. As you have heard repeatedly, it all centers around one shared belief by those of us who oppose the project. The proposed casino is the wrong place, the wrong process, for the wrong reason. It will destroy East Greenbush’s unique way of life. I am concerned about the increased crime and bumper-to-bumper traffic, addicted gambling, lower property values, and destruction of some of the most beautiful landscape in East Greenbush. The property on Thompson Hill Road is zoned residential buffer. If built, a casino might cause a Girl Scout camp to cease operating, and a private school and a high school will be negatively affected by the casino environment alone, not to mention what it will mean for the families that own eleven homes on Thompson Hill Road. Wikipedia states, and I quote, ‘*East Greenbush is an affluent suburb of Albany, New York. The population was 16,473 at the 2010 census. The word Greenbush is derived from the Dutch het groen bosch, referring to the pine woods that originally covered the land.*’ We really love our green space, and we like the fact that we can drive a few minutes and still see cows. In spite of what the developer stated in the application, East Greenbush is not economically depressed. Apparently Wikipedia does not think so either. A casino on Thompson Hill Road may, however, change that. Casinos come in and take over. Local restaurants lose customers. Other new businesses stay clear. Home foreclosures jump, and many people are forced into bankruptcy. Camp Is-Sho-Da is a year-round, almost 100-acre Girl Scout camp that was established in 1953. When Mary Buszuwski, CEO of Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York, expressed concerns about a casino being built only 3,200 feet from the camp, Austin Miller, Senior Vice-President of Gaming Operations for Churchill Downs said on May 19th, ‘*I don’t think you should be concerned about any negative impacts. You should be excited about the opportunities.*’ Opportunities? For the Girl Scouts to be excited about? Perhaps Mr. Miller was referring to the excitement that Churchill Downs has in mind for that property. After all, when a question was asked by a member of the Location Board on September 8th, Mr. Brian Davis, Director of Design and Development Saratoga Casino and Raceway, responded, ‘*If the market dictates, we will be able to expand on this property.*’ Is this the excitement the Girl Scouts should have? That their property might be gobbled up from them? This proposed casino has already damaged and disrupted lives, and the untold damage that it will do to the beautiful Thompson Hill Road East Greenbush property and more importantly our community as a whole, will be the most regrettable of all. Once again, I emphasize, it is the wrong place, the wrong process, for the wrong reason. Please do not award a license to Capital View Casino and Resort. Thank you.”

Kevin Law: “Thank you. Michael Fairchild?”

Michael Fairchild: “I want to thank you for listening to us because thus far, nobody has really been listening to us, or at least it seems that way. I know when Capital View made their presentation to you folks; there was a question about where the opposition was coming from. I hope that mystery has been solved today.”

Dennis Glazer: “Oh yeah.”

Kevin Law: "I would say so."

Michael Fairchild: "We don't have tee shirts, but I think you can figure out who we are. Okay, I was born and raised in East Greenbush. Though I now live in Averill Park, which is a few miles from the East Greenbush border, I am well within the sphere of influence of the proposed casino. I, like most people, was shocked and a little bit perplexed when the East Greenbush town board announced that they would fully support a casino in East Greenbush. This declaration seemed to come out of nowhere with no attempt to determine if the community at large would support such a declaration. It seemed odd, but really who in their right mind would want to build a casino in East Greenbush. Well, we got the answer several days later when Mr. Feathers, and I don't use that derogatorily, but it is just a hard name to pronounce. I am not even sure how you pronounce his name, but anyway, Mr. Feathers made his grand announcement that this is where we will build our casino. Wow. Quite the coincidence. Just after the board made its announcement, he comes out with an announcement that this is where he is going to build a casino. And the fact that he just came out and said that we WILL build our casino, not we are looking at it, where are thinking about it, but he just came out and said we will build it here. That was kind of shocking. In the beginning, Mr. Feathers sweet-talked the town board with grand plans, such as a PGA-quality golf course, a 300-room-four-star hotel, and all the first-rate amenities that go along with that for a world-class destination. Again, wow, seems too good to be true, and it was. After getting the town council onboard, first the golf course disappeared just as quickly as it appeared. The hotel lost 200 rooms. The world-class destination quickly became a local gaming spot. Things changed so much, so fast that one of the board members withdrew their support, support that never should have been given in the first place. Now let's just look at where these people want to put this casino. If you look at the site map, which we showed you before, and this has been talked about for quite a bit here, it is right next to a Girl Scout camp, a Montessori school, and a high school, not to mention that it is in the middle of a residential area. I just can't really understand who would look at that and think that this is a great site for a casino. It just...I just cannot get that through my head. Anyway, the East Greenbush town board seemed surprised that there was a public outcry that followed this announcement, and they and the developers had done everything they could to try and downplay the public backlash to this very bad idea. It has since been pointed out by a citizen group that one member of the town council and another member of the zoning board have direct conflicts of interest and never should have voted or even discussed this plan because of the family member that stands to make a lot of money on the proposed site. The smell of this thing just gets worse all the time. As I mentioned, I now live in Averill Park, not far from the proposed site, and I would like to point out that my town, even though East Greenbush asked for it, did not give their support for this project. And to my knowledge, Schodack, which also borders East Greenbush, did not give their support either. As for Rensselaer, you could probably ask Dan Dwyer how he feels about it. So let's see what we have at this point. All of East Greenbush's closest neighbors have declined their support. Mayor Sheehan gave hers, but I don't know. It was her argument that Rensselaer was too close to Albany. Is that her argument, that it was too close to thousands of people that need jobs? That was what I took from her, but anyway, maybe they should get their 11 million dollars back. Anyway, we also have a very sharply divided town with a lot of people that are very much

opposed to it with a vow to fight this thing every step of the way. And I see my time is up, so thank you for listening.

Kevin Law: "Thank you. Sara Hensley. Is Sara Hensley here?"

Sara Hensley: "Good afternoon. My name is Sara Hensley. I work for Rush Street Gaming at SugarHouse Casino in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I am going to start my story off with saying that I am a retired police officer that was on the Philadelphia Police Department for ten years. I got injured in duty, and I was separated from the department. I lost a huge family. On September 22, 2011, I found a new family. I started working at the SugarHouse Casino as a temporary employee in the Uniform Room. That ended up growing into where I now run their Uniform Room. We have over 1,100 employees, and I go beyond all that I can do to help and please. They are my customers. What the SugarHouse team has done for me and Rush Street Gaming has done is that when I got there, I knew nothing about computers. The computer was my enemy. I didn't know how to do emails, and that was what I had to do to run that department. So what I had was my HR Team that had my back and taught me how to do so much. They tell me that I run my own ship and am my own sailor. They gave me the confidence to be able to do what I do and do it at a different level now. I love what I do, and I love working at SugarHouse Casino for Rush Street Gaming. We have been voted for four years in a row the best place to work. That is an independent study from workers, the workers who work there. It is a family environment. We participate in so many different things from dragon boat racing to mud runs, Broad Street Run, Susan D. Komen Run and Walk, St. Paddy's Day Parade, New Year's Day Parade. We have so many different events, and somehow I got whooped into all of them, and I became the photographer, which I don't know how it happened, but I love it. I love going beyond what I can do because they show me that they care about me, they listen to me, and they have my back, so I love what I do. Thank you very much."

Kevin Law: "Alright folks, we are going to give the video one more try, taking five minutes, and then the next up after the five minutes will be Ray Gillen. Okay, up next is Ray Gillen, the Chairman of the Schenectady Metroplex, is that right?"

Ray Gillen: "That's right. Thank you, sir. We have four speakers from our County Economic Development Team in this five-minute slot. We have the best cake here today. I hope everyone goes next door and gets a piece of cake from Villatalia. Have some cake! We have to demonstrate need. We have to demonstrate need, according to the Gaming Commission. We have to demonstrate need; we have need. We lost in one employer alone 24,000 jobs. We have had lots of job loss in Schenectady and in our partner community, Amsterdam, but one particular employer lost 24,000 people in a city of 60,000. Think about that. We have the need, we also have the speed. The Gaming Act wants to see these projects built quickly. We can go in the ground. We are in the ground. Seeker is done. Our organization did it; it is complete. We can beat the two-year time schedule. That hasn't been discussed enough today because I know one of the priorities of this act is to get in the ground and get projects going quickly. We can do that. Our site is through Seeker. Our site is shovel ready. We are already in the ground, and we have a great team that has built ground-up casinos. We know what we are doing, and we know how to

do it. We have the need, we have the speed, we have a sixty-acre site, and it is a priority from the Governor's Regional Council. It is my pleasure to introduce Tony Jasenski, Chair of the County Legislature, Tony."

Tony Jasenski: "Thank you, Ray. We have a development team in place that can build this project without question. The funding is in place. The commission asked this key question at your last meeting in Albany, which I attended. You asked if the funding was set. Our answer was a resounding yes. We have a team led by Neil Blume, who has developed over 50 billion dollars in real estate. We have the Galesi Group, which today owns and operates more than 11 million square feet of commercial space right here in the Capital Region and throughout. So we have the need, as Ray said. We have the need, we have the speed, we have the site, and we have the green. We have proven builders and developers at the helm. These are long-term players with strong community ties, plus a track record of giving back to their community. They are not a hedge fund. They are not using EB-5 financing to build their project. We have the best site, the best team, we need the jobs, we need the revenue, we have got the community support, and we appeal to you to pick the best site. Please select Rivers Casino and Resort at Mohawk Harbor."

Dennis Glazer: "I have a question for you. All of the assumptions that everybody has, not just you, is based on how much the casinos will draw. They need the revenue to produce the profit to create the jobs to get the benefits. Why, for example, who do you expect to draw gamblers from? Where, what regions, and why would they be attracted to Schenectady, to downtown Schenectady in enough numbers to make it sustainable?"

Tony Jasenski: "We have a unique site. The redevelopment that is going on downtown today has transformed this community from what was in the years past a blighted area to a resounding arts and entertainment venue. It will only add to it, giving back to the community. I think it is the key to this whole thing, drawing people not just to the casino, but to the shows at Proctors, and all of the restaurants that we have got, our new Mexican radio, all brand-new facilities. We saw earlier today the partnerships that we created with other businesses in the community between Malozi's and the like. It is just a huge, huge draw that I think sets us apart from everyone else that has their application before you."

Dennis Glazer: "Thank you."

Tony Jasenski: "Next up is Gary Hughes, the Majority Leader of the County Ledge."

Gary Hughes: "Thank you Tony. I am Gary Hughes, the Majority Leader of the Schenectady County Legislature. We have the most green project as well, with waterfront access, hiking and biking trails along a mile of waterfront, and we will build a lead-certified facility. We will also have the biggest impact on upstate tourism. We are building what will be the largest waterfront project on the Erie Canal. We also have the largest investment and economic impact of any project in the Capital Region. We have a total investment of 480 million dollars, so we have the need. We have the speed, we have the green, we have the greenest project, the largest project,

the biggest waterfront project, and the strongest community support. Additionally, we have the best training system in Schenectady County Community College. Dr. Martha Asselin.”

Dr. Martha Asselin: “Good afternoon. I am Dr. Marth Asselin, Acting President at Schenectady County Community College. As Gary said, we have a Casino and Gaming Management Program already in existence at the college, and I am happy to say, we have reached a partnership agreement with Rush Street. This is exactly the kind of future we envisioned when we started this program. When I met with Rush Street, I was excited to learn about their new employee-tuition-reimbursement program, which is \$5,000.00 per year per employee for any field of study. We will work closely with Rush Street to recruit, train, and educate these employees, especially those with high need and opportunity. With our downtown Albany campus right between the two areas’ most poverty-stricken neighborhoods; we are in the best position to make a difference. The college’s Board of Trustees voted unanimously to support this project, and I stand proudly with them. Schenectady is ready for this project, and on behalf of the Schenectady team, thank you.”

Kevin Law: “Thank you Team Schenectady. That was good. That was it right, you guys are done. Thank you very much. Good job. Mary Ann Ruscitto.”

Mary Ann Ruscitto: “Okay.”

Kevin Law: “You know the drill, Mary Ann, right?”

Mary Ann Ruscitto: “Yes I do. I have been sitting here for hours. My name is Mary Ann Ruscitto. I am the representative for the East Front Street Neighborhood Association in Schenectady, New York. Why is it important that I stand here before all of you to speak about the Rivers Casino at Mohawk Harbor? It is because our neighborhood, consisting of five-and-a-half streets, is nestled between the Mohawk Harbor and stockade, and we are the only neighborhood in the city that abuts against the proposed property. The Mohawk Harbor Project and the prospect of the Rivers Casino coming to Schenectady is very exciting. At this point, I wanted to mention to you that I cannot say enough about David Buicko, the Galesi Group, and Rush Street Gaming. David Buicko has gone above and beyond to answer questions for our neighborhood, and he has not once given me the brushoff when I have approached him with questions. At one point, we had a concerned neighbor who is an engineer, who had a home on River Street that was flooded out from Irene. He had great concerns about the development of the casino in the Mohawk Harbor, and as any good engineer would do, he studied and investigated the impact of the project on the Mohawk River. David Buicko of the Galesi Group took the time out of his and his engineer’s busy schedules to set up a meeting with our neighborhood to address this concern. After this meeting, our East Front Street resident was very satisfied at what was said to him. He felt that the Corp of Engineers and the Galesi Group had addressed all of the concerns that could be done with regards to flooding in our neighborhoods. As you have seen in the promotional video, Rush Street Gaming reaches out to the neighborhoods of this city that they are located in. They pointed out the organizations that have given donations and have helped. This would be a great asset to the groups in our city.

They also talked about the tuition-refund program for their employees. This one really caught my interest, being a graduate of the Hotel, Restaurant Management Program at Schenectady County Community College. What a great program that is. I am excited if you allow Rush Street Gaming to open in the City of Schenectady at the Mohawk Harbor. The graduates of Schenectady County Community College will not have to go to Florida or California to get jobs. They can stay in our great city and grow their careers, grown their families, and have deep roots in our communities, like families before this. I say like families before them because the house I live in has been in our family for 110 years. It was my grandfather's house. My dad was born in this house. My family came to America and settled in the East Front Street neighborhood in 1889. My father worked at GE, and my great uncles worked at the Alco. My sister and I often talk about how the neighborhood used to be when the Alco was up and running. We laughed because we hear people complaining about the traffic going up and down the street. Back in the day when the Alco was going strong; when the whistle blew at the end of the workday, there was so much foot traffic coming from the Alco that you had to wait to get out your front door. East Front Street was a good neighborhood to grow up in. The Irish came first to build the railroad. Then the Polish and the Italians settled in the neighborhood. They came to America because of the Alco and the GE. We had a lot of blue-collar workers living in the neighborhood at that time. It was a family-oriented neighborhood. You knew your neighbors, and everyone was family. In closing, if I may, this comment is personal. I want to tell you about my dad, Nicolas Ruscitto. He loved his neighborhood of East Front Street. He was the founder of the East Front Street Association. He worked very hard to try and keep it a good neighborhood. Unfortunately he was stricken with bladder cancer and became very ill for a time. His one wish was to die at home. I remember the day he asked me if I would take him outside. He had become very frail, going from 230 pounds down to 79 pounds. He asked that I walk him to my neighbor's bench in front of their house. He sat down and said, 'Leave me here a few minutes.' I knew what he was doing. He was saying goodbye to the neighborhood that he loved so well. Unfortunately a couple days after that, he died. I don't mean to bring everyone down at this exciting time, but I had made a promise to myself and my dad that I would always try to make the neighborhood better, and I see that this could happen with the development of the Mohawk Harbor and Rivers Casino. We are a struggling neighborhood and fortunately we have this opportunity to become a great neighborhood, so I ask you, please allow Rush Street Gaming to build a Rivers Casino and make my promise to my dad come true, and our neighborhood and residents of this City of Schenectady, to make Schenectady a vibrant city like it once was. Thank you."

Kevin Law: "Jennifer Corso Yayas."

Jennifer Corso Yayas: "I am Jennifer Corso Yayas. I am an East Greenbush resident. Personally, I think that brick-and-mortar casinos are passé, and I think you are going to have a lot of trouble keeping it up and running no matter where you put it. That is my first opinion. You are competing with all of the online gamers. That is just my opinion, and I know you are going to make your decision based on the best things you can come up with, okay? So let me tell you what is going on in East Greenbush, okay? Well, I have personally attended and witnessed some very well-attended Town Hall meetings regarding this issue, and most of them were standing room only, with the crowds out in the hallway. The overwhelming majority of the

residents of East Greenbush clearly do not want a casino in their town, okay? I mean I think you have got that, we don't want it. But this did not stop the five board members from voting for it, proceeding with this venture against the majority of the town's wishes. So citizen after citizen stood up in front of the board and reiterated all of the reasons of why it would be a bad idea to locate a casino in East Greenbush. We don't have an unemployment problem in East Greenbush. If you are not working, you are probably not living in East Greenbush, okay? I just got off work myself. We are a family community, but we have no less than seven schools in that community, and casinos are not particularly family friendly. They bring out an unsavory element that nobody wants; people looking out for a good time, the might be looking for drugs or prostitution, and we are not interested in having that in our community. You know, all of the reasons you heard today. We have the Girl Scout camp and the schools; you have heard it all. Okay, but watching this, it became abundantly clear to me that the board was voting unanimously for the casino other than the best interests of our town. At that point, I asked the Attorney General's Office to investigate what those reasons were. These were not cookies on the table, okay? I don't have any cookies for you. I got nothing for you."

Kevin Law: "We aren't taking them anyway."

Jennifer Corso Yayas: "I mean I have got nothing for you; I have got no cookies, I have got no promises, I have got nothing. East Greenbush has got nothing for you too, alright? So at that point, I asked the Attorney General's Office to investigate what those reasons were because the odds of five individuals facing down something like 800 people in a town meeting and voting against their wishes right in front of them were less than two percent, by my mathematical calculations. So, in other words, their motivation had to be something like graft or bribery or coercion or threats. You know, something illegal, and I thought the AG would be the best agency to get to the bottom of it, but I received a letter saying that they had no reason to investigate it at this time. However, at the next meeting, okay, one of the next meetings because I gotta tell you those meetings totally ruined my summer; that was the meeting that Mangold had recused herself because it came out that her brother stood to gain a sizeable amount of money from the transaction personally. It also came out that this was known by the board to be the case at the first voice, which in my mind made the initial resolution invalid legally. So in any event, I wrote again to the AG. I wrote them a second letter, and I included an article about the Mangold recusal. I must tell you I am pretty nervous here."

Kevin Law: "You shouldn't be."

Jennifer Corso Yayas: "I know. You have been very nice and very polite and kind. And I actually have to tell you, I came here all full of fight, but I don't feel like I need it, alright? So anyway, I included an article about the Mangold recusal, and I asked him essentially to take a second look at the situation, and I just received a letter from the AG's Office saying that an investigation has been started. This is not the letter; this is the letter; that's my notes. And the Public Integrity Bureau is going to investigate what went on in that because it was absolutely insane. They don't know about that yet. They are just hearing about that. I didn't want to involve everybody because if nothing had come of it, I did not want them all excited for nothing."

Alright, so anyway, how much clearer can it be that the whole casino venture for East Greenbush is fishy, at best, and probably criminal at worst, okay? So I am not sure what is happening in the other towns that you are considering, but they seem to really want it, which is a lot different than I can say for our group. Oh yeah. Alright, and I know that that was a prerequisite for them to place the casino in any community; that the community had to support it, and East Greenbush does not support it, okay?"

Kevin Law: "Thank you Jennifer."

Dennis Glazer: "A guy with an orange shirt or yellow shirt is holding the East Greenbush....There is a coalition going here, everybody is working together."

Kevin Law: "Gary McCarthy, the Mayor of Schenectady."

Gary McCarthy: "Gentlemen, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I have two colleagues who are with me here in the audience, Harry Buffarde, the Supervisor of the Town of Rotterdam, and Joe Landry, the Supervisor of the Town of Niskayuna. Since the very beginning of this siting process, it has been my pleasure to meet with both the Galesi Group and Rush Gaming to discuss which is truly a transformative project that will change Schenectady's future; Rivers Casino and Resort at Mohawk Harbor. I support this proposal and have from the beginning for three main reasons. First, I trust the Galesi Group. Their work in Schenectady has not only been innovative and inspiring; it has been dramatically positive and has really changed our community in a significant and great way. Secondly, I met the Rush Street Gaming Team, a first-class organization dedicated to doing business the right way and insuring that the whole community would benefit from this project. They wanted a project that would complement the development that we have done in downtown. Finally, the main reason why I support, my support was driven by one simple factor; I want our city to thrive. I want our residents to prosper. I want our businesses to grow. Rivers Casino and Resort at Mohawk Harbor will be the engine that generates those successes. The residents of our community are ready. They understand the need and welcome this project. We have broad-based support. The editorial support of the *Daily Gazette* endorsing the casino, and our neighboring communities, Amsterdam, Glenville, Niskayuna, and Scotia; they are all behind it. Schenectady is the largest of all the potential host communities that you are looking at. But we also have the greatest need. According to a study performed by the *Buffalo Business Journal*, Schenectady has the lowest affluence rating of any of the potential host communities. We need this economic development more than any of the other sites in the Capital Region. The Schenectady City School District is the largest urban district in the region, with almost 10,000 students, and it has all the problems of urban school districts. Larry Spring, Superintendent of Schools, recently shared with me an interesting fact that a typical high school graduating class has approximately 750 students in it. But if you track that class from elementary school through middle school and then high school, there are actually 2,000 students that go through that class. If you take the students who have spent three or more years in the city school district, you have a graduation rate of 94 percent, where the overall district rate is slightly under 60 percent. Rivers Casino at Mohawk Harbor brings much more than merely employment. With those jobs comes opportunity for home

ownership, family stability, and the ability to achieve that 94 percent graduation rate in our high school. Rivers Casino and Resort would mean that our residents have the opportunity for good-paying jobs right in their backyard; jobs that are more than a paycheck, jobs that they can feel proud of, jobs that provide a real future. I truly believe siting a casino in our city will effectively begin reversal of these trends and provide a brighter future for our most vulnerable residents, our children. As you can see, this project represents far more than an entertainment destination in our city. It represents a bright future for the entire region. It represents the chance to breathe new invigorated life into our community. Our residents are ready, our businesses are welcoming, our team, Rush Street Gaming and the Galesi Group, have a vision; a vision that is to restore approximately 30 acres that has sat vacant and unused for almost fifty years. Without this project, those 30 acres will continue to linger and be unused. I ask that you find another host community as Schenectady and with the need as great as ours. I can tell you that there is genuine excitement amongst our residents, and as you carefully make this decision, I ask for your favorable consideration for this project. And again, I thank you for your time and the time that you are spending on this entire project, not only for the residents of Schenectady, but the residents of the entire State of New York.”

Kevin Law: “Thank you, Mayor McCarthy. Next up is Jim Salengo, the Executive Director of Downtown Schenectady.”

Jim Salengo: “Good afternoon. I am Jim Salengo, and I am speaking today on behalf of the Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation, or the DSIC, where I serve as the Executive Director. Our mission at the DSIC is to promote downtown Schenectady as a premier location for commerce, recreation, and living by enhancing, facilitating, and supporting economic and cultural growth. Rivers Casino and Resort at Mohawk Harbor is not only a natural fit with our mission; it is necessary to propel our mission forward. Our primary goal is to see our local businesses, restaurants, and entertainment venues flourish and grow. During my tenure as the Executive Director of the DSIC, I have had the pleasure of seeing downtown Schenectady began to transform into a pedestrian-friendly, much-more-heavily-trafficked area. Schenectady is in the midst of returning to its former glory as a destination, thanks to the hard work of Metroplex, the City and the County of Schenectady, and so many other public and private partners. Rivers Casino and Resort at Mohawk Harbor will be a major catalyst that drives even more visitors to our vibrant downtown. Mohawk Harbor is just blocks from Schenectady’s downtown core. That close connection makes this project unique, exciting, and full of possibilities for our hardworking, independent business owners. Those from the Capital Region and beyond will be drawn to Schenectady for the casino, and in return, they will discover and become new patrons of our local restaurants, our shops, and our great service businesses. This project will put Schenectady on the map as an upstate entertainment destination and will enhance the venues that we already have in downtown; our flagship theater Proctors presents everything from large Broadway musicals to small, independent acts throughout the year. The Bow Tie Cinema has been wildly successful with presenting first-run movies right in the heart of our district. You have heard today from miSci, the Museum of Innovation and Science, which is enjoying a huge renaissance in downtown. We are also proud to have Schenectady Civic Players, the Light Opera Company, and the Schenectady County Historical Society, who all call downtown their

home. Rivers will increase traffic to these establishments and really help them thrive. So many of the business owners I frequently communicate with have expressed their support for Rivers Casino and Resort at Mohawk Harbor. The sentiment is the same; Schenectady is ready, they tell me. We welcome this positive addition to our business community. We welcome the visitors that it will attract. We want to partner with the elite team behind this project, namely the Galesi Group and Rush Street Gaming. Rush Street has repeatedly expressed their commitment to partnering with our local businesses to offer their products and services onsite. In fact, they have already made agreements with several, including the Mallozzi Group, the Paul Mitchell School, and the Mohawk Golf Club. Our efforts at the DSIC go beyond insuring our business community is just succeeding. We want to insure that those who patronize our businesses, restaurants, and entertainment venues, whether they are from the area or whether they are visiting, have a positive and pleasurable experience. Rush Street Gaming has a history of giving back to the community. This includes beautification efforts and community-betterment projects. Clearly these ideals align with our goal to make Schenectady a premier destination. There are very, very good things happening in Schenectady right now, and Rivers Casino and Resort at Mohawk Harbor will help Schenectady go from good to great. With the dedication of the team behind the project, there is no doubt in my mind that that will happen. Schenectady is ready, our business community is ready, and we look forward to hearing your decision, and I truly hope that that decision is for Schenectady. So thank you so much for your time this afternoon. Well I still have a little bit of time, I did want to present Phillip Morris, the CEO of Proctors Theater. I spoke to you earlier. He had a letter, a separate letter that he wanted me to present. And also why I have a minute, I just wanted to, I mentioned some of the businesses that are truly in support of this project, so let me run down a pretty substantial list here of people in support: Ellis Medicine, Bomber's Burrito Bar and Willspear Garden, Zen Asian Fusion Bistro, Experiencing Creative Design, Villa Italia who made that great cake that we had earlier, and Fology Studio Transfinder, Aparativo Bistro, Ambition Café, Paul Mitchell School, Johnny's Restaurant, Momma's Ice Cream, Peter Anthony's Café, Lenin's Irish Shop, NBT Bank, Mexican Radio, Parker Inn and Sweets, Taj Mahall, Belvidere Inn, Mazone Hospitality, Bow Tie Cinemas, ME Engineering, Golab Corporation, Vantage Management, Mohawk Golf Club, Bow Tie Partners, Cornerstone Advisors, Kingsway Community, Mohawk Ambulance Service, BBL Construction Services, BBL Hospitality, Starwood Hotels and Resorts, Plank Construction, Schenectady Hardware and Electric, and Fortitec Incorporated. Thank you so much. Right on the money."

Kevin Law: "Thank you, Jim. Okay, back to the other list. Ashley Schrag. Is Ashley here? Come on up, Ashley."

Ashley Schrag: "Hello everyone. My name is Ashley Schrag, and I am the Team Relation Coordinator at SugarHouse Casino. I started in 2011, just seven months after they opened. I started as a Player Service Agent, assisting guests on the floor. I never worked at a casino before, and I quickly fell in love with it because how blessed I was there. A few months later, I got promoted to Guest Service Agent. SugarHouse is really good at promoting within. I learned so much in my position and realized that I had finally found my career with the help of the most amazing management team. Just this August, I was promoted to Team Relations Coordinator. I

personally get to plan and execute every team event at SugarHouse. Making our team members happy is top priority. Here are a few events that we offer our team members; free turkeys at Thanksgiving and wellness classes like Zumba, yoga, and kickboxing. We celebrate all the silly, fun national holidays like National Cheeseburger day, where we featured a fully stocked burger bar. We have fun contests for each holiday, where team members can win fun prizes like gift cards or sports tickets. The last event I planned was our cash blast. We randomly selected over 100 team members to go into a cash machine where they had thirty seconds to grab as much as they could. We gave away over 7,000 dollars in cash and prizes that Labor Day Weekend to our team members. On top of all that, we reached max bonus the last six quarters, which means every team member received a bonus check of \$150.00. There is so much I can say about working for Rush Street Gaming at SugarHouse Casino, but I will sum it up with SugarHouse and Rush Street are my second family. I know my team members feel this way because they personally, yes personally voted our casino best places to work every year since we were opened, which is four years tomorrow, happy birthday. We voted this way because of the integrity and overwhelming appreciation we receive from our company. I am a military wife and moved around a lot and worked at many different places, and I would have never considered any of the companies that I worked for as family. Rush Street is a company where high-fives and woo-hoos echo the halls. Going out on our positive Philly motto, bring Rush Street to Schenectady; Philly loves a winner; you can be a winner too, woo hoo! Thank you.”

Kevin Law: “Thank you Ashley.”

Dennis Glazer: “That is our first woo hoo.”

Kevin Law: “Darren Marshall.”

Darren Marshall: “Good afternoon, gentlemen. I am from Pittsburgh, and I am a bartender with Rush Street Gaming, Rivers Casino in Pittsburgh. I grew up in the area around the casino where the casino resides in Pittsburgh. This entire area has been totally transformed to what it is today and continues to grow, thanks in part to the investment the Rivers Casino has made. In 2008, the economy caught up with me, and I became unemployed. I looked at many job opportunities and job offers before deciding to take my current position with the Rivers and haven’t looked back or regretted that decision since. I have worked for many companies, national, big, small, local, family owned, over the years and can say without a doubt that I currently have the best job that I have ever had in my working life. This has also been agreed to by all the employees at Rivers in Pittsburgh, Chicago, and Philadelphia by being voted the best place to work every year. I have been given and been treated with nothing but respect since day one by supervisors and upper management down to the first-day EVS employer. This mutual respect has continued to grow ever since. Our management does listen and hears us. Do we have problems? Of course we do. I haven’t worked anywhere that hasn’t, but when problems are identified and worked through, I have yet to see problem, complaint, or dangerous situation at the Rivers that hasn’t been rectified. I had a personal experience with that. It may seem small to most people, but we had a particular brand of liquor bottle that was prone to breaking, which caused serious cuts and scratches while working. We brought this to the attention of our management, and they went to

the distributor, who went to the manufacturer, who had the bottles redesigned. Now they no longer break as easily, and this has created a safer situation for not only us here at the Rivers Casino, but for bartenders everywhere they use this type of liquor. If that's not taking action, I don't know what is. Overall, working for Rush Street Gaming has been nothing but positive. It has allowed me to put my two daughters through college. I have some of the best benefits that I have ever received at any company I have ever worked for. I have 401K, I have been there for five years and I have over three weeks of vacation. We have the tuition reimbursement, I might be a little old for that, but most important, we have great health benefits there. My wife worked for both of the largest healthcare providers in the Western Pennsylvania area. In the last five years that I worked at Rivers Casino, we have had the coverage from Rivers Casino because it was far better than what was offered by the healthcare providers that my wife worked for. Rush Street Gaming is a very reputable company to work for, and I plan to continue to work with them until retirement, which shouldn't be too long because they helped me with that too with a great 401K, great matching program. I can't speak to you gentlemen on which of the four locations that may be the best choice, but keep in mind, Rush Street Gaming is a company that does care about its communities and its employees, and it deserves careful consideration from you gentlemen. Thank you very much."

Kevin Law: "Thank you, Darren. Just two, three housekeeping type of comments. What our game plan is for those of us who endured the day with us, you know we started at eight a.m. We are going to finish at eight tonight because then we have to drive to Poughkeepsie and do this all over again tomorrow from eight to eight. We are going to go for about another forty-five minutes. Then we are taking a short dinner break, not much of a dinner, but just a quick break, and then we are going to start again tonight. For those who have come in recently, maybe after work, the game plan is that you get five minutes, and we try to keep to that. If you have a bunch of comments that have already been shared, if you want to keep it brief, of course we welcome that, but we have enjoyed the day so far with all of you. We enjoyed sort of keeping it a little light at times because when you are doing twelve hours of public hearings, you have got to have some levity. But we do and are taking everything you say seriously. We appreciate your passion, whether you are for or against a particular thing. You have been a great audience to work with so far, so let's keep it going, and those are the housekeeping items. So with that, we are going to go to Robert von Hasseln."

Robert von Hasseln: "Good evening, gentlemen. My name is Robert von Hasseln. I am the Director of Community and Economic Development for the City of Amsterdam, also the City Historian, a former resident of Schoharie, and as of today, probably interested in retiring in a casino-free East Greenbush."

Dennis Glazer: "Boy, do you know how to make points!"

Robert von Hasseln: "Wait, there is more. I am very pleased to be here today to report that the mayor of the City of Amsterdam enthusiastically supports, and the Common Council of the City of Amsterdam by unanimous resolution have supported the Rivers Casino Project at Mohawk Harbor. I would like to point out, we weren't even unanimous on the Amsterdam proposal.

Why did we change our minds? Because Amsterdam and Schenectady have been twin cities since the founding of Amsterdam. Amsterdam was founded by someone from Schenectady. We have been together down the Mohawk Turnpike, the Erie Canal, the thruway. Now, under the leadership of our two mayors, we are trying to develop new things for the State of New York through code enforcement, sharing information through land banking to fight the blight that really is the problem of Upstate New York. And this money coming into this region will help us. But beyond that, we are so close that when Schenectady sneezes, we catch a cold. Amsterdam, I have heard everyone talk about their problems, Amsterdam has an unemployment rate overall of about 17.6 percent. In some areas, it's as high as 27 percent in some of our neighborhoods. We have the largest Hispanic population outside the City of New York per capita, many of them new arrivals. We have got problems. We are the 83rd on the business reviews list of 85 schools in the Capital District. So when we can work with Schenectady on programs together, it can benefit us greatly. Beyond this, though, there is an economic justice issue here, and I am not talking about taking care of people who are neglected in our cities. For years, we have been putting things in the Capital District because every siting is separate, every project is separate. Things keep going to the east side of the Capital District. The west side of the Capital District is flyover territory. We don't get anything out there. If you don't put something centrally located, we are not going to draw any benefit out of it. We need something that is central to the Capital Region. We need something we can draw off on the Western Region to help improve our economy, and that is what all of this was about originally; it was to transform upstate economies. This is the only one, of all the proposals, that transforms the entire Capital District because what it does is it expands it, it refines it, it adds our strengths like the Mohawk Gateway Overlook and our farmland to the strengths that already exist downtown in the inner core cities of the Capital District. Perhaps even some day you will look back on what you did and realize that if you put it in Schenectady, it may be the impetus to finally do something, like build a light rail system and connect all of the peripheral cities of the Capital District with the center of the Capital District. Beyond the question of space, there is a question of time, also, and fairness. We don't know what the lifecycle of these casinos are. We do know that many of the things we saw when we were younger, like malls and suburbs that we thought would be forever are not. If we put it in the center where the west can draw off of it, it can develop things that maybe if the casino goes away in 30 or 40 years, it will have time to catch hold and help keep that economy growing. So I ask you as someone who is in the trenches every day, dealing with economic development and condition of our upstate cities, please consider the intent of the law, as well as the letter of the law. Please consider the questions of economic fairness, and look for a solution, a location, that changes the entire dynamic of the Capital Region. Thank you."

Dennis Glazer: "Is there an economic arrangement between the City of Schenectady and the City of Amsterdam?"

Robert von Hasseln: "Economic arrangements?"

Dennis Glazer: "Yes, sharing of tax arrangement or some sort of..."

Robert von Hasseln: “No. We work on programs, such as I mentioned, like joint code sharing, which we hope will deal with slumlords, and also the land banking. That’s a non-for-profit...”

Dennis Glazer: “No, but the benefit of having a casino at Rivers, would that be shared in some way economically with Amsterdam?”

Robert von Hasseln: “Indirectly in the sense that it is going to provide jobs, it is going to provide new industry and new business opportunities. Otherwise, we are participating simply under the arrangements as in the law that created your board.”

Dennis Glazer: “And have there been any discussions about people being hired from Amsterdam?”

Robert von Hasseln: “Yes, thank you. I should have mentioned that. We have already talked to Rush Street Gaming. They are well known for their diversity in other locations, and let me tell you, one thing Amsterdam has is diversity, and we have people who know how to talk many languages, so there are going to come out and they are going to work with our workforce solutions to specifically hire people who are hardworking, proven workers, we just lost 120 jobs out there the other day, and who have got special skills, and get them working here in Schenectady.”

Kevin Law: “Jamie Maldenado. Is Jamie here?”

Jamie Maldenado: “My name is Jamie Maldenado, I work at Rivers in Chicago. Thank you for the opportunity to share here today. My point of view is going to be as an employee who had a situation at work. My situation was that when I started working at Rivers Casino, I had been there before they opened; two weeks before for training and then at pre-opening week, and then I started working as a valet there with the company. My situation was that I like to serve people, and I give my all to people when I am working with them. Our guests used to come in, and I used to talk a lot with all of guests. One of the guests was special, and I noticed that he used to come odd days, and I kind of started studying him, and I noticed that he comes Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. That kind of clicked in my heart because I have my wife, who was in dialysis for two times. Once, she got a kidney from a cadaver, and the second time, she got a kidney from my daughter. That touched me, and I realized that this guest had dialysis. I asked him one day, ‘Sir, are you on dialysis?’, when he came in to park the car, and he said, ‘Yes, I am. How did you know?’ When I told him about my wife, we started talking every time that he would come in, and this went on for about a year. After a year, I said, ‘You know what? I want to do something for you. I want to give you a kidney.’ He said, ‘I don’t want to be playing games, so don’t be playing with me.’ But I said, ‘I am for real.’ It took me three months to get him to get the paperwork for me to sign up and see if we were compatible. I come from, my grandparents from Mexico, and part of my grandparents were from Puerto Rico, and this guest is Irish, so what are the possibilities there of matching? So we went to the doctors, and we started doing that. Now meanwhile, I was talking to my wife, and she said, ‘What about your job? What is going to happen? It is going to take a while; it is not going to take a week or two. You

have two weeks of vacation, and that is going to be all for you.’ So I started talking to my supervisors and managers, and then said, ‘Let’s see what happens. We are going to talk to management, we are going to talk to other people.’ And they talked to them. Bill Canner, who was the director at that time, he is somewhere else right now, the main director came to talk to me personally. He said, ‘Jamie, I heard what you are going to do. You know what? Go for it. We are going to support you.’ So I went for the operation. It took me a month to get back to work. When I got back, I already had spent my two weeks plus two weeks extra. The casino did something very, very good. They gave me my vacation back, and they gave me another two weeks of vacation on top of that, and they told me that all of the money that I gave, like for the tokes, we are going to reimburse you on that too. They told me not to worry about a thing, and they put me in two months of light duty. They said that they were going to sponsor me on that and not to worry, and I was still going to get my tokes, and they were going to cover that, not out of the tokes that come in from the guests, but from the casino. And to me, and to the family, that was a lot of help. To the guest that was coming in? Every time he would come in, he would say, ‘Hey Jamie, thank you.’ And the main thing was thank you to Rivers because Rivers not only care about their employees, but also care about the people that go there, and that is important when you have somebody that comes in to a community that cares about that community, cares about their employees, and cares about everybody around the area. Thank you for listening to me.”

Dennis Glazer: “Jamie, regardless, not regardless, aside from your employer, how generous and kind of you. It is amazing, it is an amazing story.”

Jamie Maldonado: “Thank you, sir. One of the things I want to add, if I can get a couple of seconds here? When I went to the operation, my manager went down there to the hospital when I got out of the operation. And we had one of the supervisors and a couple of workers that worked with me take me home, and whenever I needed medication for the pain during recovery, they would go buy it and bring it to my house. They would bring groceries for me and my family, and take care of us. So thank God for that, and thank God for Rivers Casino. And they have been voted number one for the last three years, and I know that is one of the reasons. Thank you, gentlemen.”

Dennis Glazer: “Jamie, were you ever a member of a union for the Rivers?”

Jamie Maldonado: “No, sir.”

Dennis Glazer: “Thank you”

Jamie Maldonado: “Your welcome, sir.”

Kevin Law: “Thomas Matike. He left. Todd Ethington?”

Todd Ethington: “Yup.”

Kevin Law: "Are you Chad?"

Todd Ethington: "No, this is Mike Monterio. We are going to take our time together. We're neighbors with Howe Caverns. Thank you for allowing us to talk tonight. It has been a long day for everyone. My name is Todd Ethington, lifetime resident of Schoharie County. I have been a police officer for Schoharie County for 25 years. I have been a small-business owner for The Work Number. The Work Number is a pay-per-use verification system, which only reports an applicant's dates of employment with a company. This limited information does not provide an applicant's standing with a company or details of their work per ten years plus, but most importantly, I am a neighbor to Howe Caverns. I live not even a tenth of a mile from the site of this casino. I live in a postcard-picture county with high taxes, no jobs, and no future for my kids. Without this casino, school and property tax increases are the only thing I look forward to. I realize traffic will increase, noise will increase, and the rumor is that my home may decrease in value, but I don't care. However, today I come in support of Howe Caverns and Schoharie County. It is our time! Believe, build it, and it will come. And with it the business will come, and more growth will come to Schoharie County. After today, I believe....Thank you, gentlemen, my neighbor, Mike Monterio."

Mike Monterio: "Hello gentlemen. My name is Mike Monterio, and I am the past supervisor of the Town of Cobleskill. I just want to say that Howe Caverns has been a bright star in Schoharie County, drawing many visitors and employing many local residents, including one of our sons during his high school and college career. But Schoharie County has dire economic problems, as you have heard, by severe flooding that we have experienced. We need economic development. I believe in thinking outside the box. I believe a casino would make the Howe Caverns area an even brighter star. This shovel-ready project would help make Schoharie County a more attractive place to do business, to earn a living, and to help develop economic opportunity, so that our sons and daughters can remain in the county or in New York State, rather than going to Texas. I have great expectation that granting a casino gaming license at Howe Caverns would be a significant benefit, not only to us locally, but to our entire region and the State of New York. Thank you for giving me this opportunity."

Todd Ethington: "We have some special people coming up next."

Kevin Law: "Next is Chad Newell. Is Chad here? We've got a group."

Chad Newell: "Thank you."

Kevin Law: "Chad, tell us how you really feel."

Chad Newell: "I would like to take this time to thank the siting board for the opportunity to speak. A group of marathon runners, including myself, called the Scary Leg Runners, from Schoharie County, coupled with members of the Schoharie County ARC, just ran a marathon and a half from the proposed site of Howe Caverns Resort and Casino here to the Holiday Turf Inn."

Kevin Law: "Hey Chad, feel free to sit."

Chad Newell: "To tell this board why it is our time in Schoharie County. We know that we have the best site, the best plan, and we fit the criteria set by Governor Cuomo and the siting board better than any other site in all of New York State. Not only does our plan allow for a casino, but also a water park for families. The current Howe High Adventure Park and the current cave tours at Howe Caverns make this a real family tourist destination, not just a gambling facility, like the other locations requesting a license. The residents of Schoharie County are resilient, hardworking, and determined. Not only will we make this project successful, but collectively, we will also make you, as members of the siting board, and Governor Cuomo, proud of the facility. We know you will be happy retrospectively that you choose our location for the upstate resort and casino project. In closing, this project will be a game changer for the entire region. It will make the most difference for Upstate New York by being at Howe Caverns in Schoharie County, more than any other location in the state. When making your decision, we ask you to choose Howe Caverns Resort and Casino. It is our time in Schoharie County. Thank you."

Dennis Glazer: "Excuse me. That fella in the back, he is walking out now, who looks like he is my age, he just ran that too?"

Howe Cavern Group: "Yes."

Dennis Glazer: "How many miles is that?"

Howe Cavern Group: "Thirty-seven."

Dennis Glazer: "So it is longer than a marathon."

Howe Cavern Group: "Yes."

Dennis Glazer: "Well you put me to shame, old fella."

Kevin Law: "Thank you Chad. Okay, back to the previously-registered list. Dr. Eric Brymer."

Dr. Eric Brymer: "Boy, how do you follow that? I actually remember the day I voted on Proposition I. I really didn't know much about casinos, and I was kind of hemming and hawing, and my wife said, 'Maybe you want to vote no because what if they build this in your backyard?' And I said, 'Oh no, there is no way that's going to happen.' Now let me explain, I wish I could show you on a map. I live on a road in East Greenbush called Third Avenue Extension, and if you drew a straight line from Thompson Hill Road to denied Laet's Landing, my house is almost smack in the middle, so I am two miles away from one casino, and two miles away from the other proposed site. So it is an interesting thing; you have people who are NIMBY-not in my backyard, so I have two casinos in my backyard, and there is a huge difference between these two sites in my view. And I am actually going to bring up two things that may not seem related,

but I have two children, ages eight and eleven, and I am really concerned about their safety on this road. Third Avenue Extension actually directly connects via the Dunn Memorial Bridge, where the East Greenbush is going to go with downtown Albany, so I am expecting a lot of traffic, and I am worried about DWI traffic accidents. So when I wrote to my town board, expressing my concerns, this is what one of my board members wrote back, *'Someone could get drunk at the sports bar and crash into your family; does that mean that we shouldn't have a sports bar in town?'* Now the thing that upset me about this was that I really was just looking for the kind of answer that they were going to increase DWI enforcement. That would have satisfied me. I want to read another thing. I got a glossy brochure in the mail, talking about how I was going to get a 30-percent tax break. So this was the second time I emailed my town board, and I asked if this was true, if this was based on their numbers or if this was some exaggeration. For this one, I got two responses back; one said, *'We haven't crunched the numbers'*, and the other one said, *'Does it matter? Our taxes will go up unless we are lucky enough to get this casino.'* Now I want to tell you a little bit about myself. I don't count on luck. I know it is easier to just trust the developers and count on luck. You know what? Maybe I would trust the Rivers Casino developers more than the East Greenbush developers. When I moved to East Greenbush, it was the first time in my adult life that I lived in a community that wasn't struggling with poverty. Previously to moving to East Greenbush, my wife and I lived in Troy, New York for six years, and prior to that, I lived in Binghamton, so I know what an economically-distressed city looks like. And I will tell you a little bit something about East Greenbush. The actual casino location on Route 4 is exactly the opposite of economically distressed. It is arguably the most prosperous shopping area in Rensselaer County. Have you guys been to the location? Have you seen it?"

Kevin Law: "Not this one yet."

Dr. Eric Brymer: "I urge you to go to the casino's proposed entrance on Route 4 and walk north. Here is what you are going to see: You are going to see a Regal Cinema, a Wal*Mart, a Panera, a Pet Smart, a Target, a Staples, a Home Depot, and twenty-five other businesses. A lot of them are family owned, they are small businesses, and they are all thriving. And the thing that I want to ask is this specific location; how exactly will the casino help develop this area? It doesn't seem like it needs a casino. One of the places we go to is Gene's Fish Fry, and I just imagine that place getting bulldozed to make way for a more profitable business, maybe a gas station, as I think that would be more profitable than a family-owned fish fry. And I am just worried that that is the kind of economic development that we are going to see in East Greenbush. Now this is not NIMBY; I am not speaking against the other casino location, which is just two miles down the road in the other direction. And the reason for that is that those developers have the common sense to pick a lot that is between the Hudson River and railroad tracks, and I think they really made a wise decision. I know I am running out of time, but I really think Hollywood couldn't make this up. They really couldn't make this up. Here is what we have: We have a Racino owner, who happens to be one of New York's top lobbyists. He wants to build a casino in a zoned residential buffer. This land will share a border, you heard, with a Girl Scout camp and a Montessori school. But this land is literally across the street from a movie theater, and it is across the street from the most prosperous shopping area in the county, as far as I am concerned. So really, here is all that we really need. We need Clint Eastwood to play the role of that angry

guy on Thompson Hill who is going to save this community from the evil empire of Jimmy Feathers. I wish I was that guy, but I am just some worrisome dad, and the thing that I really worry about is if East Greenbush gets this casino, it just gives me very little hope in the process, and it makes me wonder if maybe the smart move for my family would not be to just move off the street, but maybe to move completely out of New York State. Thank you.”

Kevin Law: “Susan Price? Hi, Susan.”

Susan Price: “Hi. Thank you for your time. My name is Susan Price. I am an East Greenbush resident and homeowner. I am also a licensed mental-health counselor and have come here directly from my work as an Addictions Counselor. So due to my profession, I have to open my remarks by saying that I cannot ignore the documented social ills resulting from gambling. Most alarming from a mental-health standpoint, studies have found that visitors to and residents of gaming communities experience significantly elevated suicide levels after casinos open. And these in past have been seen within the first year. An increase in pathological gambling occurs when casinos open, and the National Council on Problem Gambling reports that one in five pathological gamblers attempts suicide; a rate higher than for any other addictive disorder. With all the dysfunction the casino will introduce, I could make a fortune, but I would rather prevent human misery than make money off it. The benefits promised by the casino developers keep getting scaled back, at least in East Greenbush, while the negatives remain. I urge the commission to consider not awarding any casino license at all. However, I now want to address why the proposed casino in East Greenbush would be a particularly bad choice. When I tell friends from elsewhere that a casino is proposed for what is currently a quiet, residential area, a wooded area near a Girl Scout camp and schools, and off a road that is already congested, they find it hard to believe. Because it defies common sense. The reason it is being proposed for that site is that rich, powerful, outside interests want the view from up there to set their proposal apart. So just so these outsiders can name their casino Capital View, we would destroy an area by putting a casino where it cannot be justified? It is outrageous. Especially since the casino won't want customers admiring the view. They want them inside losing their money. I attended the town board meeting on June 4th. The crowd filled the school auditorium, and it was clear just from all the signs that the overwhelming majority of those in attendance were opposed to the casino. This was borne out by the speakers. A strong majority of those who spoke were East Greenbush residents speaking against the casino. Of the minority who spoke in favor, many identified themselves as employees of the applicants, and they were union representatives or others who think that they can benefit financially from the casino. Almost none were East Greenbush residents. Yet the next week, the East Greenbush Town Board went ahead and voted five to zero for the casino proposal. The applicants state they have the required local support, based on the town board vote. This is disingenuous. This proposal does not have local support. On the contrary, there is strong local opposition. The East Greenbush proposal has generated the most controversy by far due to the unsuitability of the location and the unacceptable way that the East Greenbush Town Board has conducted this process from the beginning. Some months back, I left the East Greenbush library, and outside, a volunteer was collecting signatures for the petition opposing the casino. Now they are up to over 3,000 signatures. A man with a young girl walked by the table without signing or indicating that he supported their effort, but as we

walked to the parking lot, I heard him explaining to his daughter that it is something that the politicians want, but the people don't. That sums it up. And now, even the political support is splintering. Since the original vote, one member of the town board has changed her mind, and another has recused herself due to conflict of interest, though she did so only after pressure from Save East Greenbush and should have recused herself from the original vote. So now it is down to three remaining board members continuing to align with outside interests, trampling over the wishes of East Greenbush residents. Do you feel this is the way the process should work? East Greenbush residents are being disenfranchised in this process. I sent the Gaming Commission an email in June. In that email, I asked, and I ask again, do you feel that a casino should be put where it is extremely opposed? Do you feel that five members of the town board, now three, should foist something so unwanted on a town, when we elected them to represent us? Do you feel that powerful outside interests should get to trump the wishes of the resident? If you choose East Greenbush for the casino site, you will be complicit in these injustices. Please do not do this. Please keep in mind that whatever arguments you are hearing in favor of a casino, such as jobs; the alleged benefits would apply to any of the proposed sites, while the other sites do not have the negatives of the East Greenbush proposal. If you choose to award a casino license in the Capital District, and I hope you don't, please choose a site that is at least suitable and where it is actually wanted by the residents. East Greenbush fails both conditions miserably. Thank you again for your time."

Kevin Law: "Thank you. Next we have a tag team; Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara with Assemblyman Phil Steck. Are they here? Are they here? Are you one of the assemblymen?"

Assemblyman Phil Steck: "Yes. Thank you very much."

Kevin Law: Commissioner Thompson is on the phone here, so..."

Commissioner Thompson: "Hi Kevin."

Kevin Law: "Hi Commissioner. We are going to mute you. We are going to mute your line, and we are getting started."

Commissioner Thompson: "Okay, I am muting my line."

Kevin Law: "Thank you. Okay, I am going to start the five minutes over again. Okay, the floor is yours."

Assemblyman Phil Steck: "Thank you very much. Thank you for having me here today. My name is Phillip Steck. I represent the City of Schenectady, together with my colleague Angelo Santabarbara, who will be sharing my time, and also represent the Town of Niskayuna in Schenectady County, and the largest municipality in my assembly district, which is the Town of Colonie. It is interesting because I have grown up in the Town of Colonie, and I was active before I became an assemblyman, more in the affairs of Albany County. But actually, that gives me a very unique perspective to present to you on the City of Schenectady and why I am

speaking today in support of the Rivers Casino and Resort at Mohawk Harbor. Since I have come to represent Schenectady in the New York State Assembly, I have seen a city that has a tremendous public spiritedness and citizen involvement and commitment. I think one of the things that characterizes Schenectady is because it was a long-standing private-sector town that Schenectady is always committed to pulling itself up by its own bootstraps, and the leader in that process has been the Galesi Group, that which is the developer of this project. It is probably impossible to find a developer in the Capital Region that has done as much for a community as Galesi and has been such a leader in the revitalization of Schenectady. Plus, as an assemblyman who voted in favor of the casino concept, remembering the original reason that we are doing this in the first place is that it was supposed to be placed in an area where it could maximize benefits to a disadvantaged community. The City of Schenectady, as you know, was at one time a manufacturing center. It has had a decline in that type of activity, and there is a tremendous poverty rate in the City of Schenectady. So in terms of the purpose of the casino project, to have it located in Schenectady would fill that need, I think, better than any other location because of the large population of Schenectady. Also the location, itself, and this gets into the casino operator itself, which is Rush Street Gaming and Mr. Bluhm. This location down on the Mohawk River echoes almost perfectly the successful casino that they are operating in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. So again, I think because of the quality of the combination of Galesi and the Rush Group, and the public spiritedness of Schenectady, its commitment to revitalization, the need of the City of Schenectady, which is a place where I think this money that will be generated through this project will be put to great use and serve the purpose that we all voted for in the New York State Assembly, when we passed this legislation. So with that, I will yield the remainder of my time to my colleague, Angelo Santabarbara.”

Kevin Law: “Thank you, Assemblyman.”

Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara: “Thank you. I am Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara. I represent the 111th Assembly District, which includes Montgomery County, parts of Albany, and parts of Schenectady County. It also includes a portion of the City of Schenectady. I was born in the City of Schenectady. My parents came to this area because of good-paying jobs and a chance for a better life. I am raising my family here, and as my colleague said, we are looking to create better opportunities, so the people can stay in our area and raise their families, as well. Like many areas of Upstate New York, in recent decades, we have had our challenges, but I believe this casino project in the Schenectady area would make those challenges a little easier. The revenue that could be generated by the Rivers Casino and Resort at the Mohawk Harbor has the potential to significantly reduce the local property-tax burden, and it will mean direct aid for our local schools, our local governments. I support this project because it also has strong community partners with local organizations and small businesses playing key roles in the planning, implementation, and future of the Mohawk Harbor site. This high level of local involvement is one of the major reasons why I believe in this project. One of the leading partners, as you have heard, the Galesi Group, has a proven track record as a good steward of the public’s interests. I have witnessed their efforts to work with the community and leave a positive impact on the area. I am also speaking on behalf of this project because of the level of local support I have seen. In other communities, there has been public opposition, but there is a

groundswell support for the Schenectady-area casino. Our local municipalities are behind this project, including the neighboring city, the Montgomery County City of Amsterdam, which recognizes the potential and has passed a unanimous resolution of support. It is clear that the people of my assembly district are looking for new economic development opportunities for our area, and I believe the scope of this project and its location will give us many good-paying jobs for people in Schenectady, Montgomery, and the surrounding area, surrounding counties. The legislation that authorized Upstate New York for casinos was intended to have a positive impact on the local economy and tourism, and with the Rivers Casino and Resort proposal, I believe that we have that transformative project for the Capital Region. The Mohawk Harbor area in Schenectady is ready for development, and I believe this project will be a catalyst for additional projects, like hotels, restaurants, and many more supporting industries. I think this corridor could really become something special with this casino project. Thank you.”

Kevin Law: “Thank you assemblymen. Next up is Guy Warner. Is Guy here?”

Guy Warner: “Good afternoon, my name is Guy Warner, and I am an East Greenbush resident. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you. I will keep my comments brief and specific to the flaws of the Capital View Casino application. In my career, I have helped write and have scored several requests or applications, so I can state that there are several key points to any application. One, is it factually correct. Two, has the applicant made the case that they would be able to do what they say they will do, and three, has the applicant met the requirements of the RFA. The Capital View Casino application fails on all accounts. The original presentation to the town stated that the application would be for a 300-million-dollar casino with a 300-room resort-style hotel. This is what the town officials based their original vote upon. After their vote, town officials were notified that when the application would be submitted to you, it would be now a 100-room boutique-style hotel and the entertainment showroom venue seating had been reduced by one third and the covered parking reduced by one half. As our town board member, Mary Ann Matters has stated, this is nothing more than a bait-and-switch situation. As you know, the fact is that bait-and-switch practices are not normally allowed in the RFA process, particularly when used to obtain approval, since these approvals would be based on false or faulty information supplied by the applicant. It should be noted that the application itself, in exhibit 9A2A, still refers to the 300-room hotel, so the application, itself, is inconsistent. The application states that it will make improvements to I90, specifically the addition of an east-bound-right-turn lane and a new west-bound onramp for Route 4. As I90 is an Interstate Highway, the applicant does not have the ability to ensure such promises, nor permission to make such improvements. These are federal highways. The application states that independent experts conducted impacts on traffic and roadway infrastructure, water demand, wastewater production, storm water discharge, electrical demands, and light pollution. It is not clear who saw and paid for the reviews of the application, but one must assume that it is the applicant. In this case, the people of the Town of East Greenbush would prefer truly independent impact analysis in these areas, not analysis paid for by the applicant. The RFA states that there must be an indication of local support. The application has failed to adequately show this. No town-wide referendum was held on this issue. Since it is generally acknowledged that the majority of the town residents are opposed to a casino located in the town, the applicant merely entered his

documentation on the vote of the town board, which based its vote on the previously described, incorrect information. This same vote is now subject to at least one lawsuit, a possible investigation by the New York State Attorney General, and it was done by a town board where one member has since come out against the casino application, and another who has recused herself from all future votes on this matter due to a potential conflict of interest. The RFA states that the casino must be in an appropriately-zoned area and in an area of fiscal need. The proposed casino would actually be in an area zoned residential buffer, next to a Girl Scout camp, next to a Montessori school, within a mile of a high school, and has its footprint of federally-designated wetlands, and is in a prosperous community. It obviously fails on this count, as well. It should be noted that the proposed location also has one animal species that is a proposed candidate to be on the endangered-species list, the Northern Long-Eared Bat. Yeah, I like that too. Finally, as state employees, you know that when we do our jobs, we are all required to insure that we in no way give the appearance of impropriety, favoritism, or bias. That being said, there may be individuals who have had roles in the application, who in the past have had business interactions with your committee. Let me be clear. I am not suggesting that there is anything illegal with that. Individuals have the right to earn a living; however, just like a gallon of spoiled milk in the refrigerator isn't illegal; there is just something about it that the entire situation does not smell quite right. I respectfully request you consider this point when reviewing the application, as well. I ask you all to give careful considerations to my point and reject this application. I am sure there are more deserving areas and applications, which you could choose from. I think we have heard from some. Please remember that no matter what the applicant or the advocates for that application state, as Winston Churchill said, *'The truth is incontrovertible. Malice may attack it, ignorance may deride it, but in the end, there it is.'* Thank you very much for your time."

Kevin Law: "Guy?"

Guy Warner: "Yes, sir."

Kevin Law: "I just want to say to you. None of us work for the state. We are volunteers in this process."

Guy Warner: "But you are going to be upholding the same principles that it is not going to be biased or anything else?"

Kevin Law: "Of course."

Guy Warner: "But we, of course, feel that you are going to do that."

Kevin Law: "Certainly. We just did not want you under the misimpression that we are employed by the state."

Dennis Glazer: "But I thought you made a comment saying members of this committee have had business dealings with who? Which committee and with who?"

Guy Warner: "The State Committee for, your particular committee has had meetings, and individuals have had meetings with Mr. Featherstonhaugh and have had individual meetings with other people. Outside of this group, outside of this particular group. No, yes, no. Individuals, just like...."

Dennis Glazer: "Thanks for clarifying that."

Guy Warner: "Yes. Any other questions?"

Dennis Glazer: "No. Thank you very much for your time."

Guy Warner: "Thank you very much."

Kevin Law: "As you all know, the only meetings we have had were the public meetings with the applicants down in Albany, where all the proposers got to propose, and today, tomorrow, and Wednesday is the public's opportunity to comment. So we heard their comments; now we are hearing your comments, and those are the only meetings we have had. Thank you. Last speaker of the afternoon session is Kari Dosh. Kari is not here, so we are now going into our break. We will reconvene at six p.m. Thank you very much."