



**Public Comment
September 23, 2022**

1	<p>Julie Gittings Casino? My family and many friends and neighs oppose a “local” casino. We find the “people are going to gamble anyway, we might as well tax them here” argument to be flawed and shallow and VERY SELF DEALI G. The only ONLY profit a casino brings us to the owners. Gambling is tempting, addicting, destructive and despite being defined as “fun”, imposes great costs to social services and the individuals it attracts.</p>
2	<p>Margaret Ellis I am in complete opposition to a casino opening up in State College. The hard it will bring to our community far outweighs any good it may bring. I am a health care worker with Mount Nittany Physician Group. We need a preventative approach to addiction. There is enough struggle with insufficient mental health resources to treat the problems we currently have.</p>
3	<p>Paul Clark A Casino Operator wants to open a Casino in the Nittany Mall in State College. There is strong opposition to the casino among those of us who live in the community here. From a cost/benefit perspective, the casino will add little to our community, while bringing many problems with it, including compulsive gambling. There is a particular danger of this given the casino’s proximity to 48,000 Penn State students. Many of the students living in our community have had no experience with organized gambling. Irresponsible behavior related to gambling could result in severe consequences for them just as they are beginning their adult lives. I believe the casino also will increase traffic and reduce property values.</p> <p>Many State College residents oppose the proposed casino because we believe it will have a detrimental impact on our community. I believe the University should express its opposition because of the potentially detrimental impact on our students.</p> <p>I would particularly point to the compulsive or problem gambling plan include in the casino’s application. The plan is inadequate and clearly shows by its boilerplate language that it has no serious concern about this issue and the damage it will do to our community. and our students.</p>
4	<p>Margaret Terry I can think of nothing that provides such potential harm to the university as a casino. Undergraduate students especially are experiencing a huge degree of freedom compared to their high school years and the temptation of a casino is truly insane to add to our community. Thank you, Margaret Terry</p>
5	<p>Loretta Jeffreys I believe the Penn State Board of Trustees should do everything in its power to protect the students who come to this area for an education. I believe the positioning of a gaming casino three miles from the University is a threat to student safety, education and mental health. The overwhelming majority of people who enter gaming casinos lose money, and the more frequently they try to win money, the more money they lose. That is the purpose of gaming casinos wherever they exist—to take money from the public and give it to investors, including former members of the Board of Trustees with whom you may have a personal relationship. Casinos do not improve the quality of life for their environments. Casinos breed mental anguish and despair which can exacerbate student mental health problems, which the University would have to deal with. I urge you to oppose the casino planned for the Nittany Mall as part of your care for student health and your concern for town gown relationships.</p>

6	<p>Paul Clark</p> <p>I am a 40+ year faculty member and former academic administrator at Penn State. I have long question the University policy/practice, as I understand it, that the Athletic Department is a separate financial entity from the University. I have been told that the AD is permitted to keep whatever revenue it makes and spend that revenue as it sees fit. The result is that we have money for world class athletic facilities when we do not have money to replace faculty who have left, pay decent salaries to staff, and fund new academic initiatives. And our tuition is one of the highest in the country for public universities.</p> <p>I understand that an AD that generates millions of dollars each year cannot solve our financial problems, but I do not understand why it cannot contribute in a significant way to the academic side of the university rather than spending its excess funds on non-essential projects. Would the \$12.5 million the AD is spending to remodel its Field Hockey Stadium be better used to fund scholarships for needy students?</p> <p>The new Big Ten TV contract and the addition of USC and UCLA will increase the revenue of our AD beyond the sizable revenue it already generates. Wouldn't it be to the University's credit if the public saw our AD contributing to the academic improvement of the University. That would show true leadership at a time when college athletics is increasing becoming a for-profit enterprise only loosely connected to the primary mission of higher education?</p>
7	<p>Frank Ritter</p> <p>Casino's bring misery to the town they are in. the math that we teach does not suggest but proves that people lose money at them. We do not need the problems that they bring in State College.</p>
8	<p>Richard Sargo</p> <p>Selling alcohol is a very bad decision. The university talks about doing things to encourage less drinking, then wants to sell more alcohol. Don't be hypocritical. Be a leader not a follower. Just because 10 other Big Ten schools do something, doesn't make it a good idea.</p> <p>Casino is also a very bad idea. This is a great place for retirees. I would like to keep it that way.</p> <p>Although if Mastriano gets in as governor, we will be moving anyway.</p>
9	<p>Sarah Schwartz</p> <p>As a State College community member, Penn State alum, parent, and educator, I am urging the university to do everything in your power to oppose the proposed casino to protect our community and our students. Many parents are concerned about the real risks of sending their children to a university where a nearby casino is present. There are also serious student mental health concerns, and a lack of Penn State resources to adequately address even the current student mental health needs, and as research on casinos indicates, these mental health issues will grow should there be a local casino. Students are a vulnerable population financially, and with the addition of a casino, the concern around student poverty and financial distress will be a growing issue. Lastly, the local quality of life and relationship with the surrounding community (for example, Town & Gown issues) should be taken into consideration. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.</p>
10	<p>Lisa Bolton</p> <p>I am writing to encourage the board and the university to oppose the proposed casino development for the Nittany Mall. I believe the net impact of the casino will be negative, with any (dubious) economic benefit readily offset by numerous negative consequences. No one 'wins' (except the casino) when it comes to gambling! It is addictive, it is costly, and ultimately it will harm college students and families in our community. The university will bear this burden directly due to gambling's effects on our students' mental and financial health. I urge you to oppose the casino – for the benefit of our community.</p>

<p>11</p>	<p>Robin Guillard</p> <p>As a resident of the Clover Highlands development I am vehemently opposed to the proposed gambling casino at the Nittany Mall by a member of the Penn State Board of Trustees! The Clover Highlands neighborhood is accessible from College Avenue and centered between the university and the Nittany Mall. Neighbors include Penn State Faculty, Department Heads and a Dean. Town & Gown relations stand to be irreparably harmed by this irresponsible decision to bring a casino to our community. We firmly believe that the casino will increase crime and pose significant financial hardships to the student population and to our community. Students face considerable financial without adding more. As a parent of former students who earned multiple undergraduate and graduate degrees from Penn State, I am alarmed by the adverse potential this proposed casino presents. I firmly believe it may further challenge the mental and emotional stresses facing our students. With online gambling operations readily available in alarming numbers, the addition of an alcohol-serving gambling facility is a disaster waiting to happen. The effort is irresponsible at best and criminal at worst and a total disregard for Town & Gown relations.</p> <p>Presently, a new community of student housing is under construction at the intersection of College Avenue & Squirrel Drive that will add hundreds more student apartments. The complex is located adjacent to CATA Bus stops which run between downtown State College and the Nittany Mall and within a short distance to a major highway (Routes 322 N/S) which will further entice students and outsiders with quick, and easy access to the casino. I believe this will only increase the detrimental affect the casino may bring to the welfare of the State College & Penn State community. I strongly implore the Board of Trustees to condemn the proposed casino.</p> <p>Respectfully yours, Robin Guillard</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>Hollis Zelinsky</p> <p>Dear Board Members:</p> <p>I urge you to submit a statement to the state licensing board voicing your strong OPPOSITION to the proposed mini-casino at the Nittany Mall. As a major educational institution within just a few miles of the proposed site, Penn State will, if it's approved, find that a casino would constitute a serious danger to the health and well-being of Penn State students, faculty, staff, and their families. Inevitably, it would bring increased levels of addiction, financial hardship, and related crime. That's the last thing this community needs--which is why there is so much opposition. You are not some innocent bystander in this process and need to take a stand. Please do the right thing for students and the entire community (as opposed to one individual in your ranks who's in a position to profit mightily from such an establishment) and reflect the will of the people by weighing in AGAINST this ill-conceived business venture. Thank you.</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>Jeanne Houston</p> <p>Hello Trustees, please consider making your opposition known to the PA Gaming Control Board by Oct 19th regarding the proposed casino in the Nittany Mall. I am a resident of College Township and an alumna of PSU (along with the other 5 members of my family.) There is a statistical link to increased addiction to gambling among college students (6x more than the general population). Along with alcohol consumption that we know is a problem in our University environment this should raise a red flag! This will overburden already strained resources for mental health providers. I am friends with many parents of current and future University students who would not want their child to have this to deal with in their college years. Not only is mental health and addiction a problem, but the financial burden this brings to students and families who are least likely to be able to manage this behavior and will very likely become more impoverished as a result in this time of inflation and other economic uncertainty is alarming. Please don't remain silent on this issue and become informed on the negative impacts to a community that such will bring to our Happy Valley, with increased need for police presence because of the potential for criminal activity, along with ruin to students' and families' lives. The supposed economic benefit is dubious at best with other businesses in the area to suffer. See the many studies and statistics done from other locations. You have an important voice; please use it for good! Regards, JH</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>Heather Ricker-Gilbert</p> <p>Even though the final decision for the proposed Casino lies with College Township I think the Board should take a stand against the Casino due to the impact it will have on students and the high rate of gambling addiction which will occur once such a facility is open. Traffic, debt, and crime are additional byproducts of casinos and even though a Penn State donor is behind this project I think the Board of Trustees should speak out against it. How many parents will want to send their children to a university right near a Casino?</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>Barb Saxton</p> <p>I am writing to the board of trustees to ask that you would please do everything possible and quickly so as to stop the proposed casino from coming to State College. College students are particularly vulnerable to addictive type problems and we do not need to make a casino accessible to further tempt them. I hope that the revenue this would generate would not color this opposition. There have been petitions and meetings from many of the people in this area, many with sad stories of loved ones</p>

	<p>gambling addiction and family destruction from it. Please do all in your power to help stop the casino from coming. We need to be accountable for things we have power to influence for these students and their parents. Thank you for reading this and hope you will make a good decision for PSU and our community also.</p>
16	<p>Elizabeth McGraw</p> <p>I am writing to communicate my opposition to the proposed Casino at Nittany Mall in State College, Pennsylvania. I am a resident of College Township and a Professor and Dept Head in Biology at PSU. First, Penn State students already have a problem with alcohol addiction. The brain of young people does not fully mature until their early to mid 20's, making it harder for them to evaluate risk accurately and making them more susceptible to addiction. Offering up a casino 10 minutes drive from the Penn State campus will introduce another opportunity for addiction. With rising tuition rates, we already have a huge number of students who are food insecure and who live in their cars or couch surf. I would argue that MOST of our students cannot handle a gambling habit or addiction. If Penn State becomes the university of drinking and gambling, we will fall even further in the big ten rankings, risking our reputation as an educational and research institution nationally and internationally. Second, the people who can least afford to gamble are often the most frequent customers. This casino, to be located in central PA, is a region hit heavily by opioid addiction and a range of diseases of despair. We know that the pandemic has only worsened these impacts. Adding easy access to gambling will further break these already battered communities. Development should not make social and economic problems worse – it should be used to improve communities. This casino will be preying on Appalachia. Providing tacit support or failing to speak out, is fundamentally in conflict with our land grant mission and will reflect poorly on the institution. With low unemployment in our community, the argument that this will bring jobs does not make it worth the risks. I hope that PSU as a powerful member of this community will use its influence to prevent this development.</p>
17	<p>Betty Harper</p> <p>Please do everything you can to oppose the proposed Casino development at the Nittany Valley Mall in State College. A casino will be detrimental to student and employee recruitment, the mental health of University Park community members, and the quality of life in State College. In particular, a casino could negatively impact student life and exacerbate Penn State's inability to meet the growing mental health needs of its student population. It will also further contribute to student financial distress.</p>
18	<p>Mary Jane Stout</p> <p>Please Trustees, do everything you can to protect our Penn State Community from the ill-advised local casino. This area has been a fairly safe environment for students, families and visitors. Our University should oppose this; it will not benefit students, faculty or staff. Looking at other casino communities should be a warning about the increased crime, gambling addicts, the decay of a welcoming environment for families who come to Penn State sports and cultural events. Please show leadership in protecting our students and town against this clear threat to our quality of life.</p>
19	<p>Leann Diederich</p> <p>I am writing as a very concerned member of the community. I live in Bellefonte, work in Boalsburg and State College, and drive past the Nittany Mall daily. There are a number of reasons the proposed casino would be harmful to our community. Specifically, as a psychologist, I have concerns regarding the mental health impact it would have on our community members. Please consider the following: 1) The new American casino is primarily a facility filled with modern slot machines. 2) A modern slot machine is a sophisticated computer, engineered to create fast, continuous, and repeat betting. 3) Modern slot machines are carefully designed to ensure that the longer you play, the more you lose. 4) Modern slot machines are highly addictive. 5) Modern slot machines are engineered to make players lose track of time and money (Institute for American Values, 2013). All of those factors would be a detriment to the mental health and well being of our community members. The availability of mental health support in this community is already taxed (private practices are full or have waitlists of months long, CAPS already restricts students to short-term therapy and refers out a high number of students). A casino would add an additional mental health burden to a community already struggling to meet the mental health needs of its students and residents. Thus, I respectfully request that the Penn State Board of Trustees do everything in their power (through Penn State and otherwise) to protect the Penn State Community from the harms the casino would cause. Sincerely- Leann Diederich, PhD, Licensed Psychologist.</p>
20	<p>Dorothy Sandusky</p> <p>I am writing asking you to contact college Township and the PA gaming Commission telling them that you do not wish for a casino to be opened in the State College area. Thank you.</p>
21	<p>Mary Gage</p> <p>A casino would have a i=negative impact on Penn State students. It would encourage them to waste their grant money and their time. Please oppose the idea.</p>

22	<p>Martha Micuda</p> <p>As the widow of a late retired PSU Librarian and the proud mother of two Penn State alumni, I question whether parents of Penn State students will want their children exposed to closely located casino gambling while in the care of the University, its administrators, and esteemed trustees. Why would any university, in this case a major, respected land-grant one, want that legacy for its students and community. WE ARE PENN STATE! We are better than this!</p>
23	<p>Debbie Harrison</p> <p>Having been a resident of State College since the early 80's, I have seen a lot of changes take place that have not been favorable to our little community. High rise buildings, farm land being developed, etc. Please help to keep our community from becoming even more undesirable for those who have lived here for 40+ years by speaking out against the proposal of building a casino in our area. I feel this will hurt the quality of life in this area and will make the Penn State community a less than desirable area to reside. Thank you.</p>
24	<p>Rebecca John</p> <p>I am writing to express my opposition to bringing a casino to our area. I am a Penn State alumna and a parent of five children who are only a few years away from attending college. The presence of a casino so close to campus is a large deterrent to sending our children there for my husband and I. In addition, I believe the relatively small economic improvement brought by new casino jobs is far outweighed by the negative effects: increased financial distress and poverty for those addicted to gambling, lower quality of life, and the myriad adverse effects that a casino will bring to our community, and the negative impact on student health (which is already straining the university's mental health resources). Please work to stop this this casino from marring Happy Valley.</p>
25	<p>Phyllis Garnder</p> <p>Please take a public stand against the proposed casino in the Nittany Mall. Casinos direct their revenue to their headquarters, offering only low-paying jobs to locals. Crime goes up around casinos. Those who gamble are usually least able to afford their losses. Above all, university students are adversely affected at a high percentage than the general public (gambling addiction). Say no to a harmful influence in our community.</p>
26	<p>Elizabeth Pula</p> <p>The Casino license being considered in College Township would create totally negative community outcomes for the entire County, if not region of Pennsylvania. This business is the antithesis of the systems for education and reasonable, civil, and positive business activities that have supported citizens of this region of the state to prosper, and survive for generations peacefully. Just a quick scan of the thumbnails of the PDF file of the September 15,2022 College Township Regular Meeting Agenda Packet reveals a business application with ONLY blacked-out boxes of any pertinent business information of the applicant for the business. At the get-go would you accept that type of application for any bid for any type of contract? The Pennsylvania Gaming Board needs to protect Tax revenues so that a civil public and a state can have an opportunity to continue to exist. Channeling money through a business with the necessity of total secrecy is NOT the foundation for any reasonable business especially a Gaming license application. Dark Money and money laundering is the epitome of a totally shaky and shady foundation for any type of business and definitely indicates a totally questionable and dishonest business application for anywhere in Pennsylvania, and definitely not in the State College region.</p> <p>I am advising the Penn State Board of Trustees to do absolutely everything in your power to not take a first step to destroy everything that College Township, State College, the Penn State University, Pennsylvania, and the United States as a Nation was founded on. Take the critical step in the only right direction to stop this worst type of a Ponzi scheme.</p> <p>Do everything in your power to stop the awarding of this license in the State College region. There are better business models worth pursuing in the real world of the real citizens in the Happy Valley. Keep it Happy!</p>
27	<p>Evan Mascitti</p> <p>Please oppose the proposed casino project at the Nittany Mall. I believe (along with many others in the community) that this development will only bring negative impact to Centre County. Although it may create new jobs, these are low-level service positions with poor pay and benefits. Furthermore, I do not think having this type of institution near Penn State is a good thing for student well-being. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
28	<p>Marie Hamilton</p> <p>I foresee many problems for our PSU students if there is a Casino in Centre County.</p> <p>Many years ago there was a riot in downtown State College. Many students were involved. Many of them (caught on camera) were sent to jail. I got to know them, as I was the Director of CentrePeace and they came there each day from the jail for social</p>

	<p>and job skill opportunities. These were very bright and personable gentlemen. They expressed the lure of all the yelling and students running around and all said they were tempted to join. They wanted to be part of whatever was happening. That temptation led them to dismissal from schooling and job opportunities down the line.</p> <p>A Casino would be one of the most magnificent temptations we could imagine. Just as happened during the “Riot,” the lure would be disastrous.</p> <p>I do not believe in gambling. I have never bought lottery tickets. It is against my religion. However, I would probably go there out of curiosity. The lure would be great.</p> <p>Let’s have a grand contest to see who can come up with the best, wholesome use of the Nittany Mall.</p> <p>Thank you. Marie Hamilton</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>Ashley M</p> <p>As a State College resident and PSU Alumni, I strongly encourage you to oppose the casino, keeping the following in mind:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Parental concerns about the risks of sending their children to a University where a nearby casino is present -Student poverty and financial distress -Local quality of life and relationship with the surrounding community <p>We want to attract and retain the professionals that make our community and economy a thriving one. A low crime rate is one essential piece to this. You can find many articles linking increases in crime and other illegal activity to these types of facilities. Please do anything in your power to oppose this casino.</p>
<p>30</p>	<p>Nancy Chiswick</p> <p>Dear Authorities:</p> <p>I have lived and worked in our community for almost 50 years. I raised my family here, and I had a career as a psychologist both at Penn State and in the community. I'm writing to express my very strong concern about having a casino in our community. While not everyone who goes to a casino is addicted to gambling, a significant number of gamblers do develop an addiction, which is known to cause great harm to individuals, families, and communities. This is especially true during the adolescent years, when it is normal to try new things including things that are harmful.</p> <p>While my psychology practice did not focus on addiction, several of my colleagues over the years treated addicted patients and taught courses about addiction. I learned and saw enough to know that having a facility like the one that is planned for the Nittany Mall is a very unwise decision for our community. It may generate financial gain, but the cost in individual, family, and community suffering will not be worth it. And ultimately, the cost of remediating the bad effects of having such a facility in a university town will far outweigh the immediate economic benefits.</p> <p>Our community is known and held in high esteem because we take care of one another, and because we encourage and promote having a healthy and productive life. That will be seriously damaged and diminished if you go forward with this plan.</p> <p>Nancy R. Chiswick, Ph. D.</p>
<p>31</p>	<p>Andrew Shaffer</p> <p>Please do everything in your power, both through Penn State and otherwise, to stop the development of the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall. The best available research clearly shows that casinos nearly double the rate of gambling addiction in their host communities, and research also shows that young adults are about 6x more likely to become addicted to gambling than those over the age of 25. Allowing a casino to be developed less than 5 miles from the 48,000 students at Penn State University Park should therefore be expected to significantly increase the rates of gambling addiction among Penn State’s student population, leading to substantially increased rates of student poverty, student mental health problems, and academic failure. Penn State and the surrounding community are already struggling with these issues as a result of COVID and its associated lockdowns during the past several years, and even current needs in these areas already outstrip the available local resources. Allowing a casino to be developed nearby and allowing the Penn State student population to be bombarded with advertisements designed to distract them from their problems through gambling will only exacerbate these challenges. A local casino would create a “perfect storm” scenario in which the community’s available support mechanisms would be overwhelmed, and hundreds or even thousands of Penn State students in each year’s class will likely be harmed by untreated gambling addiction. The local State College community is overwhelmingly opposed to the casino (with available polling showing opposition to the casino running between 80%-90%), and we have already requested on multiple occasions that Penn State’s leaders send the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB) a message indicating that hosting a local casino would not be in the interests of Penn State or its surrounding community. If Penn State truly values its Town & Gown relationship, we ask that</p>

	<p>you acknowledge and act upon these strong community concerns. The PGCB will be holding its hearings regarding this proposed casino on 10/19/2022, and it will likely make a decision to grant or deny the license for this casino shortly thereafter. Please show leadership by speaking out in opposition to the casino while there is still time to make a difference! Penn State's leaders would send the strongest message if they spoke corporately in opposition to the casino, but if this is not possible each of you still has your own voice and your own personal connections that can be leveraged to help protect our community from this looming threat. If you need more information about the community's strong opposition to the proposed casino or why the casino would be harmful to Penn State and the surrounding community, please visit https://www.saynocasino.org. Thank you for showing Penn State leadership on this issue!</p>
<p>32</p>	<p>Daniel Shields Dear Trustees: I hope you will join me in opposing the proposed casino to be located in College Township. In my opinion, the gambling industry is not a productive industry. It doesn't create wealth, it transfers it..</p> <p>The gambling industry tends to concentrate wealth into a relatively small number of people. This wealth is gathered from a much larger segment of the community. Many members of this larger segment are those who can ill afford to transfer money to someone else without having a tangible benefit to show for it.</p> <p>There are numerous health care concerns that attend gambling. Gambling has been recognized as an addiction and the addiction as an illness. The illness has psychological and physical complications. Like other forms of addiction, negative aspects of the addiction are not limited to the addicted. Families bear the brunt of the consequences of addiction. Frequently, people outside of the addicted person's family also suffer the deleterious effects of the illness. Studies have shown that gambling addicts have a higher incidence of violent behavior than non-addicts.</p> <p>Addiction problems end up in health care sooner or later. As a nurse who works locally, I can assure you that we do not need more reasons for hospitalization for psychiatric disorders and physical maladies. It would be irresponsible for local authorities to add to the health care burden we face.</p> <p>I have included links to two health care references for gambling addiction. I urge you to read them before making any decision to invite a casino into our region. Please note that the first is from the Mayo Clinic, an internationally recognized medical institution. The second is an abstract for a meta-analysis of gambling violence. Interesting to note that this abstract alludes to frequent relationships between gambling addiction and other societal and psychiatric problems. If this is the case, why add to the problem by making gambling more readily available?</p> <p>https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/compulsive-gambling/symptoms-causes/syc-20355178 https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25477014/</p> <p>I hope that you will do the right thing for our community by opposing the proposed casino. The people you help by doing so are likely some of the most vulnerable neighbors that we have. Sincerely, Daniel L. Shields, RN</p>
<p>33</p>	<p>David Kolasa Please oppose the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall. They are going to feature sports betting and PSU athletes will be tempted by certain unsavory bettors to throw games. I have experience working in casinos in Reno, NV and it will happen. College sports are bet on much more now than ever before. Penn State students will also become addicted as a certain portion of our population is not able to resist that feeling of adrenaline of having gambling action. Don't let Ira Lubert run Penn State. He has already purchased a seat on the board and a building. Thank you.</p>
<p>34</p>	<p>Joanna Haushalter Dear Board of Trustees, I have lived in State College my entire life and most of my immediate and extended family are Penn State alumni. My family and I have seen many changes over the past 50 years regarding Penn State and the surrounding area. We ask that you do all you can to prevent the casino from coming to the Nittany Mall. The changes that a casino would bring to the area, and how it would affect Penn State students would be marked with not only devastating consequences to Penn State's reputation (that is already known to be a party school) but also for the individual lives of these students that at their vulnerable age are undoubtedly prone to insensibility. When I picture a casino in this town, I see it as similar to our community allowing a company to build an amazingly attractive and fun playground for preschoolers on the berm of a major highway. It is attractive, fun for the kids, and</p>

	<p>will bring in money, but at what cost? Disregarding the potential of increased crime, drugs, poverty, and addiction is not worth the economic boost. My family, friends, and I believe putting money ahead of the well-being of the students and community would be irresponsible.</p> <p>Sincerely, Joanna Haushalter</p>
35	<p>Helen Love</p> <p>I am in opposition to the opening of a casino in Centre County as I feel it would be a real temptation to PSU students and take them away from their studies. I hope the Board will use their influence to prevent a casino from opening here. Thank you.</p>
36	<p>Valerie Silecchia</p> <p>As an alumni, parent of a current Penn State student, and long time resident of the State College community, I am opposed to the Board supporting the opening of a casino anywhere near our main campus. I have serious concerns about sending my children to a University where a nearby casino is present. We already have significant issues with student mental health and lack of resources to adequately address even current student mental health needs (both at Penn State and in the local community). Adding a casino and opening doors to gambling addiction, depression, and anxiety will place further burdens on the already overtaxed system. Students are already struggling with balancing academics with social life, and trying to hold down jobs to live within their means while the economy is awful. Financial distress is challenging enough without adding gambling opportunities mere miles down the road to their already immature and undeveloped minds. Actively oppose this casino, I implore you--for all their sakes.</p>
37	<p>Don Cistaro</p> <p>Please consider a strenuous response opposing the location of a gambling casino in our community. Introducing such a venue here can only have negative effects on the student body and the University as a whole. It will also reduce the revenue of our downtown merchants who are still recovering from the economic effects of the pandemic. It is truly a lose-lose proposition for Penn State.</p>
38	<p>Cheryl George</p> <p>Please consider opposing the proposed casino. Most compelling reasons: increased gambling addictions, increased crime, conflicts of interest regarding governance, impacts on sports and academics, incentivization of self-destructive behaviors in Penn State students and the surrounding communities! Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Cheryl George</p>
39	<p>Pamela Short</p> <p>The opening of a casino in close proximity to a revolving community of 30,000 undergraduates promises to be a public health disaster. It's also a mistake that probably can't be reversed. Please don't stand by idly while state and local governments and casino investors exploit Penn State's students and alumni for the money that can realized by encouraging addictive and irresponsible behavior.</p>
40	<p>Speak out in opposition to a casino.</p> <p>I urge the Board to voice in the strongest possible terms opposition to the establishment of a casino in the State College area. I oppose a casino as an alumni and as a resident just three miles from Old Main. Opposition to a casino is a clear demonstration of the University's claim to care for the welfare of students. Opposition would also reflect concern for the greater community. The negative influence of a casino is reported in multiple studies and I will not take your time repeating them here. Speak out for the good of students, the university, and the community.</p>
41	<p>Robert Hohn</p> <p>As an alum and citizen of Centre County, I am vehemently opposed to the proposed casino, for many reasons. As a PSU Trustee, you should consider the negative effect on potentially introducing gambling to students, especially at such a vulnerable age. In addition, the proximity to PSU sports teams is troubling. Finally, prospective students' parents will likely take pause when considering PSU with a casino less than 5 miles away. Please go on record as opposing this proposed casino.</p>
42	<p>Daniel Materna</p> <p>Dear members of the Penn State University Board of Trustees,</p> <p>The entire community in Happy Valley needs and asks for your help. We sincerely ask the Board to please speak out very soon against the proposed casino in State College.</p>

	<p>As rarely mentioned, but unfortunately true, Penn State is already known for high rates of serious problems with alcohol and related issues. If the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall is approved by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board in the very near future, those rates of serious problems could foreseeably increase even further as gambling addiction is added to the equation. There is also concern that the surrounding areas, which are much more in need of economic support, are unlikely to directly benefit from a casino. In the United States, casinos have never led to the large increases in funding for schools, employment, industry, and other economic benefits that were promised. There is no acceptable justification for an establishment that potentially exacerbates those problems, certainly there are alternative means of boosting the economy in State College that do not have potentially severe and adverse residual impacts.</p> <p>Earlier this year, I have expressed concern about the development of a casino in State College directly to President Bendapudi, her predecessor and Penn State's Board of Trustees. Hundreds of community members have also spoken out vigorously, presenting strong arguments and making clear the will of residents. Their voices are consistent with the bulk of the evidence which suggests that casinos built in the vicinity of college campuses have little positive effect on per capita income and job growth, but they do bring an accelerating effect of gambling behaviors and addiction, alcohol use, and other risky behaviors. WE ARE the "Town" portion of "Town & Gown", and WE ARE asking for your help!</p> <p>I hope you will consider the evidence and the implications for our students. Please provide that help to us by using the powerful voice of Penn State University to speak out publicly against the casino proposed for our bucolic college town. Thank you, we really do need your help. Most importantly, we really need that help right now!</p>
<p>43</p>	<p>Janet Nelson Dear President Bendapudi,</p> <p>My husband and I are residents of College Township, graduates of PSU, and retirees. We live in a middle class neighborhood within two miles of the proposed casino site at the Nittany Mall. Our neighborhood is populated by retirees, young working couples, and young families with small children. Our son lives in another middle class neighborhood two miles from us.</p> <p>Our dreams for our children were that they above all else be able to go to college and learn to support themselves financially through a profession that they really enjoy. They have done exactly that at PSU. Our son is a middle school band director at MNMS and our daughter is a clinical pharmacist. They both worked hard in this wonderful school district to be able to pursue higher education even though they might not have had all the advantages of an upper middle class family with more resources. The temptation to use drugs and drink back in the nineties was real yet they were able to avoid it because of our hopes and dreams for them and our hard work to provide the essential support for extracurricular music lessons and tennis lessons for our daughter which kept them very busy and away from temptation.</p> <p>The financial struggles of middle class families and young couples with families today are much greater than when we raised our children in this neighborhood. A casino nearby would be a tempting vessel for eventual financial demise for people in our situation in the nineties. The illusion that gambling can help alleviate financial struggles is real for many as is evident with lottery ticket sales. Just imagine the allure of a casino to those struggling with finances. These neighborhoods were built as starter homes. Some of us have not been able to move but have at least been able to improve the lives of our children. Our fear is this casino would further marginalize the people who live in these communities now with those same hopes and dreams by being so physically close and tempting them to participate in a vice that we know does not do anything to improve the lives of the majority of people who gamble.</p> <p>As president of PSU, I know you believe education to be the vessel to improve the lives of our children and also benefit society as a whole. Our grandchildren live so close to the site of this proposed casino and we do not want it near them at all. Casinos are best located in an isolated area so that people need to think twice before making the trip. Not in a community of families and children struggling to make ends meet. It's a recipe for disaster for these people. Please help them keep their minds focused on what is really important which is hard work and education.</p> <p>Thank you. Janet Nelson. Sent from my iPhone</p>
<p>44</p>	<p>Jun Luo Dear PSU Trustees,</p> <p>Turning the old Macys in Nittany Mall into a Casino is an extremely harmful ideal for State College. It will ruin the reputation of this family orientated small city. Even more, it will damage the reputation of the highly ranked, world renowned PSU, not even</p>

	<p>mention bad impression it will give to prospective students and their parents. Imaging that you are a high school student or his/her parent before you make the decision. How many parents would like to send their kids to a casino city and how badly it can dim the enthusiasm of a prospective student when he/she get know their campus is just 3 mills away to a huge casino.</p> <p>Putting a Casino in State College is also not a responsible decision to the seniors retired and living in the city. It may raise health and driving safety concerns and make some of seniors more vulnerable to addiction to gambling.</p> <p>I definitely could not see the benefit of a Casino to the surrounding companies and offices either.</p> <p>Thanks and good luck to this lovely city! Jun</p>
45	<p>John Pitterle</p> <p>I ask the question, why would anyone who genuinely cares about other people want a casino to come to Centre region and close to Penn State?!? <CR> All of the other major State College townships and the State College Borough, except for College Township, opposed and prohibited a casino in their region! These townships saw how obvious this decision should be and they decided to do what is clearly the best thing for the people living in their region. <CR> Gambling is not a good, healthy, desirable thing that we want our children or anybody to do on a regular basis. It is inherently unhealthy and there are way too many potential problems and risks. <CR> Having legalized gambling at the Nittany Mall, just minutes away from Penn State, could be detrimental to some Penn State students. Some PSU students could become addicted to gambling. Gambling could lead to financial problems for some PSU students along with increased stress and other difficulties. It is likely that crime would increase in this area if a casino opened here. Many parents could become concerned about even having their child to go to Penn State in the future if gambling becomes legal just a few miles away from Penn State. <CR> Gambling is not a virtuous activity. The majority clearly do not want it at the Nittany Mall in Centre County. <CR> I hope that the leaders of the Board of Trustees will learn from the Borough and Patton and Ferguson Townships who banned a casino in their townships. A casino is not good and is not desirable! Surely something can be done to prevent this from happening! <CR> My wife and I graduated from PSU. I started working at Penn State in 1985. I have a child who graduated from Penn State and another child currently attends PSU. I have lived just minutes away from the Mall since 1994. Please do whatever you can to help make sure that a casino does not open in State College at the Mall. It would not be in the best interests of Penn State and the students.</p>
46	<p>Geoffrey Godbey</p> <p>The vast majority of people in Centre County oppose a gambling casino. It will bring gambling addiction, crime and a lower quality of life. It will also cost more in government spending and support for recovering addicts. Say "no" to the casino.</p>
47	<p>Avis Jones</p> <p>Please work to oppose the casino in college township. This casino is risk for Penn State students who are vulnerable to negative influences at this crucial stage in their development. It would be in their best interests and the communities best interests to keep this detrimental form of "entertainment" out of our community.</p>
48	<p>Donald Schneider</p> <p>Dear Penn State Board,</p> <p>My family and I are opposed to the development of a casino at the Nittany Mall in Centre County. As a physician in the community, I am well aware of the negative effect casinos with their associated gambling have on both psychological and physical health. Casinos will increase the burden of smoking and alcohol related diseases in our community. The addictive nature of gambling will also add to the burden of psychological disease in the area. With so many students in the community allowing a casino under the guise of development and financial gain would be reckless.</p> <p>Donald Schneider, M.D.</p>
49	<p>Jennifer Money</p> <p>Please issue a statement in opposition to the proposed casino in State College. A casino is a bad addition to a university town with students who already have a tremendous amount of student debt.</p>
50	<p>Christy LaForce</p> <p>Please do what you can to stop the casino from becoming a reality. The students and citizens of Happy Valley do not need this kind of business. Knowing first hand, the heartbreak of gambling addiction with my brother-in-law, I do not want to see others in my community suffer as his wife and daughter did.</p> <p>Thank you, Christy LaForce, Former teacher</p>

51	<p>Carolyn Wilhelm Penn State is a world-class university. A casino would not be a positive factor to recruit new faculty or other potential job candidates. Centre County should not become Las Vegas or Atlantic City. Why should Penn State be at a hiring disadvantage in order to make a wealthy non-resident even wealthier? Please oppose the casino with all your power. And please don't act like you don't have influence in this matter. If you don't have it, get it. The College Township Board is already acting like the township authorities do not have power to stop this project.... that is nonsense. Penn State and College Township can stop this project if they combine forces. You just need to find the will.</p>
52	<p>Dorothy Delafield I am opposed to the sale of alcohol at athletic events. This change in policy seems to fly in the face of all the university's efforts to foster healthy living and responsible drinking. There already is a significant strain on local medical and law enforcement resources, especially on game weekends. The risk of adding to that strain far outweighs any financial benefits.</p>
53	<p>Pam Zimmerman Please do all you can to oppose the proposed Nittany Mall casino. It would be a detriment not only to the State College community but to the University community as well and could affect the decision of students to attend Penn State.</p>
54	<p>Susan Natter Dear Penn State Board of Trustees, Please do everything in your power to protect our community from all the harm that a gambling casino would bring.</p> <p>When we moved here, Centre County was considered one of the BEST and SAFEST towns to retire to. That's why we chose to move here. We've enjoyed a safe 20 years here without any fear.</p> <p>With all the increase in crime occurring on a daily basis all around us, we are deeply concerned. Thank you. Sincerely, Susan Natter</p>
55	<p>Angela Moore Please oppose the casino in the Nittany mall, having a casino would be detrimental to the students and the community as a whole. Thank you</p>
56	<p>Pris Shea I am adamantly opposed to having a casino in our county. There is no value to having one but many circumstances which mean we do not need one: 1. most who gamble cannot afford to...poor population 2. no students from kindergarten to college need the influence of a casino in their lives - some may think because it is there, the population approves of it so it must be ok to gamble 3. do we really want the type of customer the casino might attract 4. the area proposed is a commercial and housing area where a casino is inappropriate I have many more but will keep this short; call and I will talk your ear off!!!!</p>
57	<p>Melinda Ohlson As a proud alumni and varsity student-athlete (Women's Swimming) at Penn State, I have been so fortunate to have been able to make State College my home. My husband and I have lived here since our graduation & marriage in 2001. We both love PSU and the community and believe the proposed Casino will have irreparable damage to the atmosphere and thus the reputation of the town and university, as well as the culture of the football/ event weekends, not to mention the financial drain this will invite or impose on individual and community levels. As your friend and partner in seeking the glory of Old State, for Her founders, strong and great, please stand with me and our community now to leverage any pressure you can and oppose a casino from intruding our valley. We'd like to keep it as Happy as possible. Thank you!</p>
58	<p>Carol Camargo I am deeply troubled that the college has not opposed having a casino in our backyard. A casino would change the whole atmosphere of the town, and not for the better. Many lives are ruined by gambling. Many student lives would be ruined by gambling. Please consider speaking out against this!</p>

59	<p>Jo Anne Mengle I do not believe a casino so close to Penn State sends a good message to parents of students or prospective students. Parents have a right to expect the university to do all it can to ensure a safe environment for the students they send to Penn State for an education.</p>
60	<p>Benjamin Hagerup I am a PSU alumnus (Civil Eng 1998) and have lived in State College with my family for 19 years (not including my years at PSU-University Park). I have 7 kids and am aware of the negative effects that research has demonstrated that gambling/casinos can have on communities and young, naive minds. I'm writing to request that the PSU Board of Trustees take an official stand against plans for a proposed casino at Mt. Nittany mall. This casino is not in the interest of Penn State students! Parents will be concerned about the risks of sending their children to a University where a nearby casino is present. This casino is likely to lead to student poverty and financial distress and to increase demand for mental health services at Penn State (which are already strained). Thank you for your consideration.</p>
61	<p>George Harrigan It is inconceivable to me that a group responsible for the status, reputation and future of likely one of the most respected educational institutions in the country would not be taking advantage of the opportunity to express concerns over the Proposal for the opening of a casino within walking distance of the University's flagship campus. Please make an official statement to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board opposing the application without further delay. G J Harrigan</p>
62	<p>Brea Asbury I am writing to ask you to oppose the proposed casino in our area. Such a place would surely wreak havoc on our students and their families for generations to come. I am shocked that the idea was even entertained in a college town. It is a shameful idea with no positive outcomes for our community.</p>
63	<p>Lydia Vandenberg As a long-time staff person at Penn State, I ask that the University do all in its power to oppose the casino that is being planned for the former Macy's location by Trustee Lubert and his partners. It is unthinkable that in his role as a trustee, he would consider an action that would harm students. Alcohol is addictive and we have policies around that at the university, which are also being modified in the effort to raise money. When are we going to put student lives first ahead of dollars? The casino proponents advocate that this will bring jobs and taxes to our community. As we have seen in other places, the cost of the problems outweighs the few jobs it creates.</p>
64	<p>Philip Cartey I care about the quality of students as well as residents of the centre region. With this in mind I oppose the establishing a casino in our community.</p>
65	<p>Paul Shaffer Dear PSU Trustees: For a few weeks this summer my wife and I gathered signatures of those opposed to the casino at the Nittany Mall. While it is not statistical, we estimate that we received 8 or 9 responses in opposition for every 1 in favor. What is of particular note is that those who were most adamantly opposed were those who had previously lived in communities where there were casinos. They spoke of how it changed the character of those communities and had numerous horror stories of how the casinos preyed upon their patrons and destroyed lives and families. The one I found most poignant was in speaking with a man who had worked for a casino in the Midwest. He told of how following his military service, he went to work as security in a casino. One night there was a disturbance on the gaming floor, and he was called upon to intervene. What he found was a man trying to get his wife to stop gambling and leave the casino. The man pleaded that his wife had emptied their bank account, and then their checking account, and was now maxing out their credit cards. The individual recounting this story, then said with considerable sadness in his voice, "and I had to remove the husband from the floor because she was a 'paying customer'." Please protect our students! Please contact the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board prior to their meeting on October 19th. Do all that you can to prevent their approval of a license for a casino at the Nittany Mall. Thank you. Very truly yours, Paul G Shaffer, AIA, PSU Alumnus, State College Resident</p>

66	<p>Don and Irmi Snowden</p> <p>Please oppose the proposed casino in Centre County. This is totally inappropriate for our college town (or any other really). The negatives are too numerous to list here (addiction, alcohol, accidents, crime, etc.) All this is about someone making money at the expense of vulnerable folks.</p>
67	<p>Mina Yindra</p> <p>To the Board of Trustees, we ask you to do everything you can to fight against the proposed casino in the Nittany Mall. As a former highly-placed security member of a casino in another city, I have firsthand knowledge of how the industry comes in offering so much and then takes everything instead. While the crime rate always rises, there is also an influx of garbage, pollution, homelessness, drug addiction and the senseless destruction of lives of the most vulnerable, usually the very young and the very old. The corporation that is attempting to build here has been involved in many negative and exploitative activities in the past. The university staff and student body you serve, and have promised to protect during their time in your care, needs your support before the casino tentacles reach so deep that State College can no longer extract itself. I ask that you will remember these facts and prevent the certain degradation that will follow the casino's entry into this community.</p>
68	<p>Gina Leon</p> <p>I would like to state in the strongest possible terms the inadvisability of building a casino in the Centre Region. As an incredible amount of power resides with the Penn State Board of Trustees, my hope is that you will not continue to stay silent. The proposed casino would be a huge blight on the family-friendly spirit of the community. Please use your influence to prevail upon the PGCB to deny a license to the Bally group's request -- and to deny the license even before an impact study may have been completed by October 19. As long-time residents of State College (we moved here 43 years ago) my husband and I need answers to some urgent questions: Just how much revenue will the community derive versus how much is leaving the area? Will the revenue come from visitors or the local community? And what about the students and the University? What will the impact on possible student addiction and to the reputation of the University? Do you really think there will be a salutary effect on 40,000 students living within four miles of a gambling casino? And, of great concern to many of us -- particularly with deep roots in this community -- what will the impact on crime and property values be?</p> <p>Of course, many of the negatives are intangible. And I don't expect Bally to give a hoot about the quality of life in Centre County. But, to quote the esteemed head of the Women's Resource Center Anne Ard, a local activist who "picks up the pieces" after sexual crimes are committed -- in an article she wrote for the Centre Daily Times about her opposition to selling alcohol at football games -- "It may be legal and profitable, but is it wise?"</p>
69	<p>Marsha Haack</p> <p>I strongly oppose a casino coming to State College. It is too close to Penn State and is unhealthy for both the campus and the community. There are not enough addiction counselors to care for people addicted now. The numbers will increase.</p>
70	<p>Nestor Handzy</p> <p>One of the best selling pints of Univ. Park is the happy and Safe atmosphere the campus provides. It is prudent to assume the Casio would lead to an increase in crime, and who would be the target? Rich kids from out of state/foreign students with more money than the local population would be an easy target for people who just lost their week's wages at the Casino. If a Casino increases the number of sexual assault cases, how likely will parents be to send to their kids to Penn State? Will Penn State be in the news yet again garnering more negative press for some Incredibly Poor Decisions and policies? Do more students have to get hurt or die before Penn State regrets having a Casino right down the road from Beaver Stadium?</p>
71	<p>Joyce Hanscom</p> <p>I would like to express my concern about the proposed casino. Nothing good comes from gambling. It, in fact, destroys families and lives. My first husband was addicted to gambling, and he gave me an allowance to buy food and other necessities then gambled the rest. He would disappear for days, and I never knew why until we were separated, and I saw all the gambling slips. Our marriage ended. This casino will cause many hardships. Please oppose it.</p>
72	<p>Walter Filmann</p> <p>Please, I wish the trustees would oppose a casino opening up at the Nittany Mall. Nothing good ever comes from gambling establishments in communities. They create no new wealth and only enrich those at the top of the pyramid by robbing what wealth already exists from those stuck at the bottom. Don't let this come in and destroy all that is good, truthful, and beautiful about living in Happy Valley. Thank you.</p>

73	<p>Dawn Maguire</p> <p>As an alumni, staff of 10+ years, local resident of State College for over 17 years, and parent of 2 current Penn State students I am writing express my strong opposition to having a casino in my town. Those of us who call Happy Valley home and have raised our children here do not want a casino. The negative impacts of a casino on the community will far outweigh any limited economic gain for a few. University leaders have a responsibility to speak out against this proposed casino, which will bring nothing positive to our hometown or our students and children.</p>
74	<p>Susan Jackson</p> <p>I and my family have been residents in Ferguson and Patton Townships for thirty (30) years and our whole family is strongly opposed to the planned casino. Our opposition has a lot of company, as I don't know a friend or acquaintance who is in favor of bringing a casino to our town. All are sad, disappointed, even angry about the harm that will come to many by living or working in proximity to this venture. What harm, you may ask?</p> <p>First, it will hurt the poor. Those who are least able to gamble without doing harm to themselves or their households are the very ones who are tempted to give it a try. The people I have known or personally heard about who have gambled to their detriment were all folks who 'couldn't afford to lose' at gambling, including one mature woman who filed for bankruptcy several times. Who ends up paying for the losses of the poor when they gamble? The community they live in pays, taxpayers pay.</p> <p>Second, with a large college campus in town who else will be hurt by gambling? It will be students who already are carrying debt they may never be able to repay, or more likely in many cases it will be their parents who pay. Is this the type of 'opportunity' in town that will help build them into honest, hard-working, self-supporting citizens? If a bar establishment will be connected to the casino is this not another negative drawing point for students?</p> <p>Third, it hurts the entire community because they will pay for the broad negative consequences. Gambling is not a wholesome endeavor. But this is a free country, to each his own. Yes. Does that mean it belongs here? Does that mean those desiring to bring it here should hold sway? Truly, I don't know of a person who wants a casino here.</p> <p>I recently learned that The Lycoming Mall has been turned into a casino. A drive of one hour and twenty-three minutes will supply a gambling opportunity there for any who desire it and can - hopefully - afford to gamble. Further, in the Centre County Gazette where an article about the casino appears on the front page for May 26-June 1, it is interesting to also read an article that appears on page 5 entitled, "New bus route to connect State College and Atlantic City". In the article it specifies that "Service will end in Atlantic City at three casino locations...."</p> <p>Could we not do better for our small town than to try to make it another casino destination? How sad. With I-80 in close proximity what-or-whom will we be attracting? Not all investments in a community are good. Some put money in the pockets of the investors or developers to the harm of the people that end up having to live with it. I believe that is true in this case. I plead with you to use your powerful influence to protect those connected to Penn State University and others in Centre County from this harm.</p>
75	<p>Elizabeth Betts</p> <p>I am a College Township resident who stands with my community in opposing the development of a casino at the Nittany Mall. As the parent of two PSU graduates, my concern over this development is its impact on our already debt-laden college students. Thank you for providing a means for me to state my opposition to the casino at the Nittany Mall.</p>
76	<p>Daniel Faiella</p> <p>I heartily oppose the introduction of a casino to Happy Valley. Gambling is something larger cities are better prepped to handle. But over the years to come, this development would put a stain on Penn State as a safe environment for faculty to raise families and students to let their guard down. It would bring to town a new set of challenges that would not be countered by the extra tax income.</p> <p>I live in college township close to the mall, and have enjoyed leaving doors unlocked and allowing our kids to roam the neighborhood without fear. This area has ranked one of the highest in the country as one of the happiest places to live based on safety, diversity, school district, proximity to parks and outdoor venues etc. This has increased the prestige and attractiveness of the university.</p> <p>Building this casino puts all that in jeopardy, largely on the backs of the poor. Gambling is simple fun for many, but a debilitating addiction to others. It nearly ruined the life of one of my family members. It would be a very negative addition to our</p>

	<p>community. Investing in education and healthy recreational activities builds a stronger, more attractive community - a casino works against those benefits.</p> <p>Please do all within your power to oppose this. Thank you! Daniel Faiella</p>
77	<p>Kirsten McTernan</p> <p>I'd like to bring to attention and urgent matter that will affect Penn State faculty, staff, students, and community members. A decision will be made soon on whether or not to allow a casino to be built very close to Penn State University. It is a fact that trouble surrounds areas that have a casino. In my opinion, if our community does not oppose this casino, we are headed to a very different and disastrous future for the currently safe, family-centered Happy Valley. My husband is an alumni and current professor of Penn State, and we have chosen this area to be our home as we love the community, low crime, cleanliness, and natural beauty. It's a wonderful place to raise a family and also retire. I fear what having a casino would do to our community as we know it. Please help to voice your opposition to this casino ASAP.</p> <p>Thank you for reading this and for helping to protect our lovely home.</p>
78	<p>Sharon Guenot</p> <p>I'm a PSU Alumni, '94 and have lived in Centre County all my life. It's been a good place to grow up and raise a family. We enjoy the benefits of a first class university yet retain that small town/rural vibe. I'm proud to call Happy Valley my home so I am writing to ask you to oppose the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall in College Township. Yes, it could bring some jobs and maybe some tourism but at what cost? In the end, the county and municipalities will have to find more funding to combat the problems (drugs, trafficking, prostitution, alcoholism, etc.) that statistically follow these types of businesses. The potential for these types of problems could have a negative effect on the university as well. We've already lived through the Sandusky scandal. We once again hear the roar of 100,000+ fans in Beaver Stadium on a home game Saturday. Optimism and hope have returned in the aftermath of Covid uncertainties. So instead of bringing tourists to the area to gamble their money away, bring them for the amazing things the University offers - football, arts/music, ice cream, and a diverse world class education to name a few. As the alma mater lyrics say "May no act of ours bring shame, to one heart that loves thy name. May our lives but swell thy fame, dear old State, dear old State". Please oppose the casino at the Nittany Mall.</p>
79	<p>Mardi Frye</p> <p>I understand that the Penn State Board of Trustees can be involved in the decision to allow a casino to be built in the Nittany Mall. I believe the addition of a casino would have many negative impacts on the university, Centre County and beyond. I ask that you do everything you can to oppose the proposed casino.</p>
80	<p>Veronica Hay</p> <p>The proposed casino, in my opinion, is not in the best interests of the University or the State College area in general. The potential for addiction and loss of income for families regarding their actual living expenses is real.</p> <p>Please consider more than just how much money it will bring into the area. Please consider children and families who could be impacted by it being there. Also, young students who might not have the discipline to walk away from the temptations that will exist. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
81	<p>David Hatfield</p> <p>I am respectfully asking as the Board of Trustees at Penn State that you do everything in your power to oppose the College Township casino. As an affiliate advisor of a spiritual org on campus, I'm well aware of the high levels of addictive and self-destructive behaviors and emotional struggles in the student body. As a parent of teen-agers (and future Penn-Staters) I do not like the idea that they'll be sharing the roads with many people frequenting the casino who have had too much to drink, and I believe many parents who send and are considering sending their children to PSU share the same concerns. I'm also well aware that the University lacks the capacity to adequately address even the current student mental health needs, and allowing this casino could lead to a vast increase in cases due to addiction, greater poverty and financial distress amongst students, and the anxiety and depression that would result from this. My own father almost took his life due to battles with gambling before he found freedom, so I understand how destructive this can be. Finally, I know the University takes pride in the town and the feeling is mutual, and that it is quite influential in town affairs. This casino will undoubtedly cause damage to both. I'm asking you now to use your considerable influence to oppose this casino before it gets started. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
82	<p>Daniel Kiehl</p> <p>I am the Senior Pastor of Oakwood Presbyterian Church, a congregation of about 400 people in State College. I am appealing to you, as the Penn State Board of Trustees, to do whatever is in your power to oppose the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall. I hear influential people make promises about the possible financial gains that can come to a community with the presence of a</p>

	<p>casino, but whatever extra money comes with the casino would not be remotely worth the negative impact of the casino on the emotional, psychological, moral, spiritual, and relational health of our community. Our community cannot afford that cost. Penn State students, who have been entrusted to your oversight, will be especially vulnerable to the negative effects of the Casino's presence. Please add your collective voice to the majority of citizens in this community as we oppose this casino. Rev. Daniel Kiehl</p>
83	<p>Richard Sargo Selling alcohol is a very bad decision. The university talks about doing things to encourage less drinking, then wants to sell more alcohol. Don't be hypocritical. Be a leader not a follower. Just because 10 other Big Ten schools do something, doesn't make it a good idea. Casino is also a very bad idea. This is a great place for retirees. I would like to keep it that way. Although if Mastriano gets in as governor, we will be moving anyway.</p>
84	<p>Gerneylee Carter Please oppose the application to open a casino in Centre County. Communities located within 10 miles of a casino exhibit double the rate of problem gambling. Communities also suffer higher rates of home foreclosure and other forms of economic distress and domestic violence.</p>
85	<p>Stewart Combs I'm sure the local township that will 'house' the proposed casino is focused on potential revenue. However, I have major concerns with any gambling business and how it affects our community and students long term. Things I'm not sure have been fully considered: Can be a gateway to increase criminal activity (organized and random); following that - potential effects on student and community safety; potential harm for students and community members who may have compulsion issues with risk-taking; influx of visitors whose reason for travel is not related to Penn State or the community - but is gambling. Truly hope the board will consider these factors and what actions may be done to forestall or stop this proposition. Thank you.</p>
86	<p>Jeff Davidson I appreciate the work Penn State does on behalf of the community. Thank you for your time and effort. We have lived and worked in this area for 35 years, my wife has been a faculty member for 35 years, and we value the contribution Penn State makes to the region. We are strongly against creating a new and unhealthy casino business in our area. Adding a business designed to deplete the money of visitors and our citizens is a pretty-striking change from the community we are and have been. Further this business is especially designed to prey upon the vulnerable and the addicted. I think the community and the University would regret pursuing this path. Our region is known for education and healthy tourism. Let's not disregard that for the sake of a short-term Nittany Mall tenant. I hope Penn State will join in the community of effort opposing the introduction of a casino to our region.</p>
87	<p>Alicia Hughes Please oppose the casino coming into State College at the Nittany Mall! I am a member of this community and a parent of a PSU graduate. The idea of bringing a casino into a college town is unconscionable!! This is a family town that values its community and the health of this community will be greatly affected by allowing this casino to come into this town!! I have personal family experience with the hardships and devastation gambling brings and would not want here!! Please do not let that casino come here to wonderful State College!!</p>
88	<p>John Cimbala I am opposed to the casino at the Nittany Mall. I encourage PSU and the PSU BOT to take a stand against the casino. Why? Casinos bring in money, but at the expense of more crime. The vast majority of the money goes to the casino owners, who are not even residents of our county. Gambling has also been shown to be highly addictive and has ruined many lives. Thank you.</p>
89	<p>Candace Kent I am deeply concerned about the negative impact the proposed casino would have on the Centre Region. I do not believe it will enhance our area in any way. Having a large population of college students would be a strong reason to not have a casino. Students should be focused on their studies and life at Penn State. A casino would be a serious distraction both in time and money. Please join your voices in opposing the casino and protect the students and residents from its negative influence. Sincerely, Candace D. Kent</p>
90	<p>Sherrie Borden I find it reprehensible that the university will not oppose the proposed casino in College Township. As we all know, and has been validated, casinos are bad for the community in every way possible. So, why would the university condone this type of</p>

	business! Do the right thing for the State College, Centre County, and PSU community (even though a PSU alum is behind the casino license).....oppose the casino! Thank you.
91	<p>Kathleen Postle</p> <p>I want to express my strenuous opposition to the proposed Nittany Mall Casino in the strongest terms possible. As a PSU professor charged with overseeing the health and welfare of our student population and as a resident of State College, I say that infestation by a casino will only bring out the worst in our community—gambling addiction, poverty, increased crime, and increased student alcohol consumption. There is no other reason to inflict this on our community other than greed. It will not be a positive addition, and there are many better things to do with that space that would enhance our community. Please lobby against the proposed Nittany Mall Casino.</p>
92	<p>John Asbury</p> <p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I wish to express my opposition to the proposed development plans to establish a casino in our area. The negative effects are well-established of such a casino on the lives and well-being of those who are most vulnerable in our community, both financially and socially.</p> <p>If those in governance are considering the proposal to develop a casino because of the need to raise additional funds to address budget shortfalls, then they should clearly communicate to the voting public what those needs are that would be met by the casino project and invite discussion of alternate ways to raise those funds. The suggestion of developing a casino to raise such funds would be counter to current efforts to increase the diversity, equity, and inclusivity (DEI) of our community. This is because statistically, individuals from more diverse and often more vulnerable backgrounds are those most likely to engage in gambling behavior at a casino.</p> <p>Instead, the budgetary needs that would be met by the proposed casino project should be brought before the voting public with an invitation to identify alternate and more equitable means to raise those funds. This process would allow those with more robust financial means to bear the costs while protecting the more vulnerable in our community. It would be important to frame the discussion in this context so everyone involved understands the need and what is being avoided by agreeing to pay more in taxes (the likely result of such a discussion).</p> <p>Thank-you for protecting the most vulnerable in our community by opposing the casino project.</p>
93	<p>Bonnie Dripps</p> <p>I would like to ask you to research and consider the effects that the proposed casino to be built in the State College area will have on the interests of the University and its students. Will this be helpful to the success of the University's goals or will it be harmful? Will the students be distracted from their studies and perhaps even addicted to gambling? What effect will that have on crime on campus, not to mention money available for student tuition as well as the credibility of the University? Please research these things and make your findings known so that any and all harmful effects to the University and its students can be prevented before the casino invades our community.</p>
94	<p>Judith Swisher</p> <p>This community does not need nor want a casino! This will only bring crime and other unwanted participants to this area. Please do not support this use of the mall!</p>
95	<p>Joyce Hall</p> <p>I am asking the Penn State Board of Trustees to do all you can to oppose the opening of a casino in our community. I believe that a casino would bring greater problems to our area than it would bring benefits. I'm concerned about the addictive nature of gambling and the effect on our Penn State college students, as well as the negative behavior brought on by attenders which often accompanies casinos. I believe having a casino here would make our community less safe, and it could negatively affect parents wanting to send their children to Penn State. Please oppose the Nittany Mall Casino. Thank you, Joyce Hall</p>
96	<p>Andrew McKinnon</p> <p>I strongly oppose the casino currently being considered for development at the Nittany Mall. Polls have shown that at least 80% of the residents in the Centre Region also oppose this development.</p> <p>Our community urges the trustees to join us in rejecting this misguided proposal. The reasons for keeping a casino out of our community are manifold, including one that pertains to the central role of Penn State: The education of students in this area and throughout the world. Quality education is the bedrock of any healthy community regardless of scale. We rise or fall depending on our level of awareness of relevant issues as well as the areas we choose to prioritize. As a long time resident of</p>

	<p>the Centre Region, I am aligned with many others who prioritize healthy individual development, healthy bonds across all community levels from neighborhoods to townships to the region at large, and a healthy relationship between people and the natural environment in which we live and depend upon.</p> <p>A casino nurtures none of these areas. Instead of promoting health and contributing to a rich organic society, it speaks to our lowest and least healthy desires, including a “get rich quick” mentality, an urge to consume and compete rather than contribute and cooperate, and a narrow focus on synthetic experience to the exclusion of an immersive relationship with the land, which is in critical need of our awareness and protection.</p> <p>If education is the bedrock of a healthy community, consideration of health in all areas of life is, or certainly should be, the bedrock of our educational institutions. Please join our community in rejecting the proposed casino.</p>
97	<p>Susan Buda</p> <p>I am an alumni and resident of State College. I have deep concerns about the prospect of a casino in State College due to the proximity of the university. A casino could negatively impact graduation rates and might also deter serious academic students and their families. Addictive and destructive gambling is present in all casino atmospheres and as a university who cares about their students would not want it near their campus. Also, in-person gambling at casinos is much more destructive than online gambling, as the exchange of money and alcohol among groups of people can result in physical violence and crime. The fact that every casino needs security guards is indicative of the violence and crime that is associated with this activity. Other colleges and universities have successfully fought casinos in their towns as the college-age demographic is particularly susceptible to the negative aspects of this activity. Please oppose the creation of a casino in State College. Thank you.</p>
98	<p>Joan Bouchard</p> <p>I am a resident of The Village at Penn State in Patton Township, and I am writing to you, the Penn State Board of Trustees, because I am the parent of a 43-year-old gambling addict. His addiction has broken up his marriage, affected his health, and ruined his financial life - which means that my financial stability has been in jeopardy as well. And I know many stories regarding gambling addicts that are much worse than this, leading to early death and even suicide.</p> <p>I am shocked that a Penn State Alumnus and Trustee is willing to expose our students to the dangers of gambling, for his own personal financial gain. His decision is his decision, but it does not have to be yours. Maybe he is willing to live with the responsibility for the number of students that begin a life of gambling at his casino and ruin their lives - but are you? And are you willing to bear the responsibility for the local businesses, such as movie theaters, restaurants, and bars, that will close because the students choose to go out to the casino instead of patronizing their establishments? And for the crime and prostitution, and children (and pets) left in locked cars while their parents gambled, and for the impoverishment of Senior Citizens that inevitably follows the opening of a casino? For 20 years I lived near Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun in Connecticut, and I know what I'm talking about, I've seen it with my own eyes.</p> <p>Please think carefully and well about what you are doing. I can foresee a whole generation of PSU students whose futures will be jeopardized - an addict is born with a propensity for addiction, but it lies dormant until first exposure - by then the bug has bitten, and it's too late to stop without help, the spiral down has begun.</p> <p>Gambling addicts will not reflect well on their Alma Mater. Their careers will be less successful, they will be less likely to become leaders in their chosen professions, and they will be less able to support the University financially over lives that may be shortened due to the alcohol abuse which usually accompanies a gambling addiction.</p> <p>The Board of Trustees must take a stand on this issue and state its opposition to siting a casino here. If you do, it will be much more likely that College Township will decide to ask the PGCB not to approve this application. Most of the residents in the area think that the family atmosphere of our community would be permanently harmed if that happened. And in the long run, the financial health of the University would be harmed as well. Parents will send their students elsewhere - according to the latest Newsweek study, Penn State is now the worst value among the Big Ten schools - do we want to be known as the Gambling Capital of the Big Ten as well?</p> <p>JUST SAY NO TO THE CASINO!</p> <p>Respectfully, Joan Bouchard</p>
99	<p>Sheryl Groner</p> <p>I lived near a casino in Tucson AZ; We moved two years after building our house near it because of the crime in the area. In another incident (at the same house) a good friend came to me and told me that her husband almost gambled their mortgage away. I do not want this for "Happy Valley."</p>

100	<p>James Bennett</p> <p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>I am a concerned resident of Ferguson Twp with regard to the proposed construction of a casino in the mall. I have lived in Maryland near a casino and have seen the changes it brings to the surrounding areas. There are many negatives such as traffic issues with the area, increased crime due to the type of clientele that casinos attract. I have experienced the affects that creating gambling addicts causes, it leads to desperation, lies, deceit, and stealing, all in an effort to feed the addiction. The lie that you can become rich by gambling will only lead to people losing money and despair. Casinos don't produce winners, they produce losers and profit by their naivety and lack of discipline. Putting a casino this close to a major university would be irresponsible and wreckless. Do we really want to create new problems in the Centre County region all in the name of making money? How will the casino benefit the student who tries to gamble and ends up losing money they need to live on, or even worse, money intended for tuition, it will happen, i have seen it firsthand! I would implore the board of trustees to write that letter to ask that the casino NOT come to this area, after all, are they not TRUSTees? We trust that you will do what is best for people of our region!</p>
101	<p>Jesse McTernan</p> <p>Dear Trustees. I'm joining with the others who are expressing a deep concern for the construction of a casino in the mall. As physics, scientists, and engineers trained in mathematics and statistics we understand that casinos thrive because more people lose than win. Sadly, those who lose are often the most vulnerable in our society, that is, those addicted, those who are statistically illiterate, the immature, those who are financially down on their luck, and those who are deceived by the false hope of getting rich quick. There are better ways to enrich our community (financially), then by bringing a casino, which will cause great harm to the most vulnerable and be a stain on the safe and peaceful lifestyle of Happy Valley. We must do everything within our ability to protect our students. Ironically, in a Penn State Today email I read, "Community members urged to do their part to help keep Penn State's campuses safe ". Will the trustees keep our community safe and oppose the casino? If not, more people will lose than win (literally and metaphorically).</p>
102	<p>Roy and Mary McKinney</p> <p>There is no good thing that comes from excess alcohol and sports. Sports can be enjoyed without alcohol at the game. We also feel that a casino will only cause loss of money to those who already pay tuition, our students' parents. There is enough to entertain students without a casino. We are very concerned since our granddaughter may go to Penn State.</p>
103	<p>Tisha Edor</p> <p>Please consider discussing the university's stance on the proposed casino at the nittany mall and what the university can do to stop it. This will not be a wise venue to bring to this community. Please do all you can to protect the students, faculty, and staff as well as alumni and community members that love and support Penn State from this venture that has the potential to negatively impact all. Surely the university can make use of the space to further education, community or other projects that would make the region better and not subject it to increased crime, alcohol and drug use, addiction.</p>
104	<p>Richard Kipp</p> <p>This email is to record my opposition to the proposed casino in State College. My family and I feel there is little to no economic or community value to such an enterprise. Additionally, the central location and size of the mall space would be far more useful and constructive if dedicated to a health, technology, or educational resource for our community.</p>
105	<p>Joan Nessler</p> <p>As a retired faculty member and alumna living at The Village, I believe the proposed Casino would create more problems than the financial benefits to the area.</p> <p>I am concerned immature college students may become addicted leading to multiple problems. .Numerous people opposed to the casino spoke at the College Township Council meeting of despicable effects of their incurring a gambling addiction. I'm sure many people will succumb to this disease.</p> <p>In addition, people in the poverty classification may wrongly spend hard earned money hoping to win. Others will do this also. We do not know who from outside Centre County might come into the area; we do not know if criminals or other undesirable people will come to "Happy Valley."</p> <p>No remuneration is worth the risk. Please do everything in your power to prevent a licensing license here.</p>
106	<p>Judy Bourne</p> <p>I'm writing in regards to the possible opening of a casino at the Nittany Mall. It would be a bad situation for college students who are already struggling with addiction issues, for students who are already in financial weakness, and for students who are already in compromised time management. I hope Penn State will be a leader in opposing this casino.</p>

107	<p>Benjamin Waldecker Hello, I wanted to write in order to convey strong opposition to the development of a casino within mere miles of the Penn State Campus. I urge you to take every action to push back on this project by putting pressure on college township and the casino developers to take their project elsewhere. Allowing this to be built near your campus is openly putting your students at risk. You will be endangering the students you strive to educate. The very idea of a casino near a major college campus is negligent through and through. I strongly encourage you to oppose this. If you don't, you will directly play a part in inviting addiction, dropouts, and broken futures into your campus. Do not allow this project to go forward. Benjamin Waldecker</p>
108	<p>Linda Morrow In addition to my personal hope that a casino is not going to be permitted in the area, I think it is unwise for PSU to not take a public stand against it. Families may be apprehensive about sending their children to a university in a small city they previously considered "safe," but change their mind if they learn there is a casino on the CATA bus route. A casino will not add anything valuable to the ambience and culture of our beloved college town.</p>
109	<p>Chris Paveglio Hello board, I am a Borough resident working at the local weather company for over 8 years. I would like to express my concern and object at the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall. Casinos and PSU students won't be a good mix and it would be easy for students to lose a lot of money there. Casinos are businesses that exist to drain money from their customers, and I worry about the likely low wages paid to the employees there while addiction to gambling and carry on effects of poverty, alcoholism, or drug use could seriously impact the entire Centre region. The University has a lot of clout in the area, so I urge you to take what steps you can to dissuade the planners from building the casino in this wonderful community. Thanks.</p>
110	<p>Sandra Duverneuil To Whom It May Concern: I am a resident of State College in Centre County and vehemently oppose the proposed casino at Nittany Mall. I am also a Penn State employee and parent of two Penn State students--one former and one current. I moved to State College from the Washington, DC area in search of a healthier lifestyle. I would not have moved here with two children if there had been a casino. (If I wanted to live near a casino, I would have relocated to NJ--no thank you.) Opening a casino in State College is tantamount to opening Pandora's Box. It will result in increased crime and is highly inappropriate in a college town where underage drinking is already a problem. I am also concerned with potential problems that may arise if a casino is situated in State College such as human and/ or drug trafficking. Penn State has a responsibility to be a community leader and advocate for its students. If the university truly cares about its students, faculty, and staff, it would encourage local and state government representatives to change course and approach IKEA or a family-friendly venue such as Dave & Busters to come to State College. Penn State has had a lot of staff turnover recently. Changing the character of State College by opening a casino will not help Penn State attract a talented workforce. I hereby request the members of the board use its clout in the community to voice opposition to the proposed casino. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Sandra M. Duverneuil</p>
111	<p>David Werner I am David Werner, a retired ophthalmologist, living in State College with my wife, Susan Werner, since 1978. We both have held elected positions in State College. I was a two term Ferguson Township Supervisor. Sue was on the school board for 12 years and president for 7 years. I was also chief of staff at the hospital for 3 years. We both have held many other volunteer positions in the community. The casino is a very bad idea. Our primary opposition is that it will be financially disadvantageous to the people in our community who are most vulnerable. As well the environment that it creates is antithetical to life style of a college community which is what brought us and many others to this community. We hope that Penn State will oppose this offensive addition to our community. Thank you, David Werner</p>

112	<p>Melissa Deines As a clinical psychologist for decades, I am opposed to increasing gambling in Centre County. Negative impacts such as increases in gambling addiction, crime, depression seem a high human cost for the revenue that a casino could bring. The economic benefit would be largely to the owners, not the community, and the jobs directly created would not be substantial. Centre County and central Pennsylvania afford a quality of life for individuals and families and communities that is uncommonly high. Please oppose bringing casino gambling here.</p>
113	<p>Arthur Goldschmidt As a professor who has had contact with students since 1965, I am deeply worried about the effects on having a gambling casino so close to impressionable young people who can readily become addicted to gambling while they are studying at Penn State.</p>
114	<p>Jill Zeruth I oppose the casino being built in State College.</p>
115	<p>Shannon Frey Dear Board of Trustees, I would like to note my opposition to the proposed casino in College Township. I would like to request that the board investigate options for stopping the casino's creation. A casino would bring a multitude of concerns for UP students, as well as potentially harm university and community relationships. Thank you for your consideration. Shannon Frey, College Township resident and Penn State faculty and alumna</p>
116	<p>Sharon Howell To Whom it May Concern, I recently relocated to Pleasant Gap Pennsylvania from Tampa Bay Florida. I am in absolute Awww of Pleasant Gap and its surrounding cities. Honestly my first reaction relocating in my new community "So incredibly family oriented" I find my community to be very friendly, helpful, kind, laid back, minimal traffic, no road rage & low crime so my question is: Why would you feel putting in a casino would benefit our family oriented community and especially in todays economy? You may say the casino will provide job opportunities. However the number of residence loosing their Pay checks, Social Security checks, Minimum wage checks & Savings will certainly out weigh the number of employed The casino (house) does Not want gamblers to win! I have traveled to Las Vegas, Lake Tahoe, Reno and many trips to the Hard Rock Cafe in Tampa. What I learned from my experience in these casino's.....drugs, robberies, prostitution, suicides, crime, ended marriages, gambling addiction..... -I heard the casino will increase the value of my property. Having a casino is not worth any amount of increase on my property -I heard from a neighbor papers have all ready submitted to go further with the casino so my thoughts would not make a difference. My thoughts are Nothing good comes from going forward with this casino anywhere in Centre County! Please Reconsider! Do not ruin this beautiful town! Sincerely, I Love My City</p>
117	<p>Jack Quick Please oppose bringing alcohol to campus. You already know the effects that alcohol has on crime and other major issues it causes. I would also ask you to voice your opposition to bringing a casino to our country. Knowing the major problems that it will bring to campus as statistics already verify. Choose to protect your students from further life altering issues caused by these two addictive things.</p>
118	<p>Skip Dreibelbis Please demonstrate that there actually are people of good character with wisdom who have the courage to oppose the building of a casino in Centre County. Nothing good has ever come from gambling.</p>
119	<p>Stephen Smith Please oppose the Casino.</p>

120	<p>Nicole Zembower Please OPPOSE the casino proposed for the Nittany Mall. We live within walking distance of the proposed casino site and are very concerned about gambling addiction and the negative impacts on our community and PSU students. Thank you, The Zembowers</p>
121	<p>Kara Dixon As trustees of the university, please take a stand against the development of a casino to be located at the Nittany Mall in State College, just a few miles from the main campus. The majority of our Penn State undergraduate students are in a vulnerable age group to developing a gambling or gambling-related addiction and a casino so close-by may prove too tempting to pass up. The university has a lot of power in this area and the trustees input would be an important voice for our students.</p>
122	<p>Susan F. Smith PSU students are here to learn, not to drink alcohol or gamble. Twenty percent of college students are already addicted to gambling, why make it easier? Communities that have allowed casinos have serious doubts about the decision to allow them, seeing an increase in crime, alcohol arrests, increased policing costs. Don't do this to College Township!! Thank you.</p>
123	<p>Meira Minard I have been a resident of State College for 49 years. I have seen a lot of changes and growth during that time. I am not opposed to either change or growth, however, I am opposed to the casino. We are a small town with a big school. Our residents value our small town feel and our sense of community. Our focus is on quality of living and we choose to live here ("the middle of nowhere") because we do not want the stresses of a city (traffic and crime). Our residents do not support this casino, so why is it being brought here? The obvious answer is profit to a very few. And why have a casino so near a university with a susceptible student body who should be focusing on their education and development and not "get rich quick" schemes? In what way does that support Penn State University's mission of fostering student development for the ultimate "benefit of our communities, society, and the environment"? And how can a Penn State alumni, in good conscience, be the one responsible for such an anti-educational establishment?</p>
124	<p>Ling Rothrock I am opposed to bringing legalized gambling in the form of a casino into State College. As a faculty member and a resident of the State College Borough, I think enticing students with yet another form of addictive behavior is detrimental to the student body and disruptive to the university community.</p>
125	<p>Jeanne Cocolin We DO NOT WANT A CASINO IN OUR COMMUNITY!</p>
126	<p>Tapas Mal It is a bad idea to have a casino (gambling place) close to our great university. The university will lose its pristine identity and State College will lose its place as a college town. Enrollment in the university would decrease over time as parents would be concerned about sending their children to a place where there is a casino nearby. The place would lose its tranquility due to incoming traffic from other places for gambling. It would be a nightmare for local and university law enforcement. The city might have a short-term financial gain, but the long-term effect would be far worse than we can foresee now.</p>
127	<p>Merlin Ritz I am joining with concerned citizens in recommend that you publicly oppose the oppose the proposed casino to be located in Pen State's backyard. There are many reasons to oppose such an enterprise, but the one that should most concern overseers of a major university is the lure of a nearby attractive nuisance to impressionable, naïve young students.</p>
128	<p>J. James Wager The Penn State Board of Trustees exercises significant influence on the communities surrounding Penn State campuses. I am writing to request your rejection of the proposed Casino in the State College Nittany Mall.</p> <p>I have been privileged to complete both may undergraduate degree and graduate degree from PSU and to retire from the University after 35 years of service. In my administrative role (University Registrar) and as a part-time instructor I encountered many students. These encounters often highlighted the importance of a supporting community to our students both on and off campus. The potential presence of a Casino will not be in the best interest of Penn State students, nor the interests of the State College/Centre Region community.</p> <p>Please use you voice to soundly oppose the Casio plans for the State College Community.</p>

129	<p>Nathan Tack</p> <p>I am writing to indicate my strong opposition to the development of the proposed Nittany Mall Casino. Gambling among college students nationwide is on the rise and bringing a casino to State College would negatively impact the ambience of the town. Some studies (https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/17882602/) indicate that 23% of college students already gamble online. Applying those statistics to the Penn State University Park student body (~40k students), the Nittany Mall Casino could produce 9,345 college gamblers in the town of State College. For that calculation, statistics from the Penn State academic year 2019-2020 were used. Scroll to the section titled "Penn State Student Body Statistics": https://admissions.psu.edu/apply/statistics/. Please understand that student gamblers do not make reputable college students. I speak for myself and the hundreds of students I have met on campus: college education is a time sink purposed to invest in the future. Gambling is also a time sink, but not a way to prepare for the future. A college student cannot sustain multiple, purposefully contradictory time sinks in the years they spend here. My opposition to this proposed casino license represents the State College community and the University Park student community. I urge you to oppose any development of a casino in State College and the college township.</p>
130	<p>Barbara Furman</p> <p>As an Alumnae ('66) and State College (College Township) resident I am asking that the Board take all measures within its purview to support the efforts to stop the establishment of a casino. It would only be a detriment to our community. But even more significantly to the detriment of our students, rather than to positively impact their success. Such cost would far exceed any monetary rewards, the largest percentage of which will benefit the operating entities and not our community. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.</p>
131	<p>Jane Lee Childs</p> <p>Please consider carefully the deleterious effect a casino will have on PSU students and area young people. Gambling is an addiction. Casinos are notorious for bringing crime to an area. Please stand up against the pressures from Gaming companies and politicians who see this as an easy way to put money in their own coffers. Vote NO to allowing a casino in Centre County.</p>
132	<p>Glen Coates</p> <p>There is nothing good that comes to an area from a new casino; a few well-positioned people will profit handsomely and local businesses will suffer loss. All you have to do is look at the history of new casinos. A new casino will overshadow local businesses and bring crime to our area. Keep the casino out! Glen Coates</p>
133	<p>Carol Winkler</p> <p>Please actively oppose the proposed establishment of a casino in State College. In addition to being a 48 yr resident in State College and former faculty at Drexel, my perspective is that Penn State should foster and maintain the highest standards to provide responsible stewardship regarding quality educational and research opportunities while promoting the health and emotional wellbeing of its students and residents. Establishing a commercial gambling facility in State College risks damage to both Penn State's reputation, and our community. Together we take pride and have flourished for commitment to quality educational opportunities in a safe, nurturing environment. A Gambling facility will reflect negatively on how we are perceived and valued.</p>
134	<p>Mahmut Kandemir</p> <p>Hi, I request Penn State's trustees to do everything in their capacity to prevent the planned casino. Thank you.</p>
135	<p>Austin Heller</p> <p>I have been vocal about my opposition to the construction of a Casino in the Mount Nittany Mall and have written several Letters to the Editor of the Centre Daily Times detailing the specifics of my concerns. This now is my official written request to the Penn State board of Trustees to do everything they can to oppose the casino.</p>
136	<p>Jadine Reese</p> <p>Please, as Penn State's Trustees, do everything you can to oppose the casino, being proposed in Centre County. Gambling and the gaming industry is an addictive habit not conducive to the Happy Valley's culture.</p>
137	<p>Stacy Karchner</p> <p>I disagree with the plans for a casino. I feel it will have a negative affect on the community including Penn State. Casinos bring families apart, cause financial troubles, increase crime, prey on those with addiction and/or can manifest addictions. There are plenty of other healthier things to use money for. Thanks</p>

138	<p>Russ Johns I am opposed to alcohol sales at football games. Some spectators will overdrink resulting in problems between people. Regarding the casino, I am also opposed as this is not a positive for society.</p>
139	<p>Melvin Westerman A casino in Centre Region is bad.</p>
140	<p>Bill Rose Please oppose the Nittany Mall casino. Whatever slight benefits obtained are vastly outweighed by the negatives. Broadly, as a community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should we enable and even actively foster gambling and gambling addiction, an enterprise that at its core preys upon the desperate (and foolish) by deceiving them and taking their money? NO. • Should we attract a stream of strangers to our area, who care nothing for us or our quality of life, who may increase local crime, drug and alcohol abuse, etc.? NO. • Do we want to move in any direction that begins to turn Happy Valley into Seedy Valley? NO. • Are we really so desperate to revitalize the mall that we would unthinkingly welcome a casino instead of actively considering better options without all these downsides? I hope not. • Would we be PROUD of a casino? I know I wouldn't. • Not to mention the billboards, the advertising, the traffic impacts. <p>Additionally, from a University perspective, I cannot reconcile claiming to safeguard the young adults entrusted to us with knowingly acceding to a gambling casino in our backyard. As Andrew Shaffer as noted elsewhere, research has shown that college students are about six times more susceptible to gambling addiction than adults over the age of 25. Penn State should join the opposition and protect highly vulnerable students in this regard just as surely as we would any other similar threat to their wellbeing. If the casino comes, there WILL be victims. Please lend your considerable weight to help us forestall tragedy.</p>
141	<p>Robert Booz I am a Penn State Alumnus twice (BS, Acctg-'68; PhD, Comm Arts & Sci-'99); and have retired from Penn State in 2008 serving as the Development Dir. in the Office of the Senior VP & Dean of the Graduate School. I and my wife STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed Nittany Mall Casino! We have returned to Happy Valley in 1977 and have seen many amazing improvements both on the Penn State campus and in the State College surrounding community. Growth for both the university and the community has been exemplary, thus attracting more and more families to move back to Happy Valley. Unfortunately, the latest proposal to build a casino at the Nittany Mall is not an improvement! We are asking the Penn State Board of Trustees to strongly express their opposition to this casino. Not only am I a proud Penn State Alumnus, but so are my deceased parents ('40 & '42) and brother ('78), my daughter ('94) and son ('98), and one grandson ('20), with a 2nd grandson graduating in 2023. I can speak for all of our family members as PSU graduates that we oppose this casino. Having spent my last 20 years employed at Penn State, University Park campus, I have interacted with literally hundreds and hundreds of Penn State alumni on the east coast from New England down to Florida. I am certain that the vast majority of them would oppose a casino that is literally "next to campus." If the Board thought that fraternities around the University Park campus have caused much concern over the years, wait until the Board members see the horrible activities affecting students' lives when a casino is in the area. Dealing with past fraternity issues would be like a cake-walk compared to enormous problems with a casino next door! My wife and I have been to Las Vegas a few years ago to experience the glitz and glamour, etc. I must also confess that we are not gamblers and do not intend to become one should a casino come to the Nittany Mall. What we saw in Las Vegas was nothing short of appalling to say the least. We all know how Penn State home football games turn Happy Valley into one huge tail gate party with thousands of alumni and friends returning to Happy Valley. Again, wait until you see what will happen on those weekends if a casino was "next door" to Beaver Stadium. It is sad to even think of the crime and the associated riff raff that would infiltrate this community. My wife and I and our family alumni beg the Penn State Board of Trustees to take a public stand to OPPOSE the Nittany Mall Casino. We thank all the board members and we will pray for the Board as they deliberate what action they will take. Sincerely, Bob Booz, PhD</p>
142	<p>Lorraine Ritter A casino, being a form of entertainment, has nothing positive to offer the community and can impact the community in a very negative way. This form of entertainment produces many, many, losers who return to the casino thinking they can recover what they lost, only to lose more. It doesn't take long for them to become addicted. I feel fortunate to have raised my three children</p>

	<p>in a safe and healthy environment. With the large student population here, a casino will attract many of them. When crime and health issues surface, it will reflect poorly on the University. I would not allow my child to enroll at a school in that type of environment.</p> <p>Surely, there can be other uses for space at the Nittany Mall that don't put our youth and community at risk. Let's not gamble, there's too much to lose.</p>
143	<p>Mark Jackson</p> <p>I am requesting that the Penn State Board of Trustees make a public statement opposing the opening of any casino in Centre County. I have lived in State College with my family for the past 30 years and am a proud Penn State grad, and I don't want to see my town damaged by the opening of a gambling center. Casinos prey on society's most vulnerable, and are damaging to young adults like the 40,000 undergrads at Penn State that we as a community have a duty to protect. A casino in the area would increase gambling addiction and financial distress, both reasons that will cause parents to be disinclined to pay to send their children to Penn State. Please speak out against the opening of a casino in the Nittany Mall, or anywhere in College township, State College, or Centre County.</p>
144	<p>Kurt Haushalter</p> <p>As a lifelong resident of State College, as well as a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University, I'm contacting you to voice my concerns over the proposed casino project at the Nittany Mall. As the largest employer in State College, and an entity that makes up a substantial portion of the population in our "happy valley," I implore you to do whatever is in your power to stop this project from coming to State College. Although there may be some legitimate financial incentive in bringing a casino to our community I believe the risks involved far outweigh the possible positives. With so many students already struggling to find positive ways to entertain themselves without misusing or abusing vices like alcohol, do we really need to add another temptation to their plate? Even if a casino wouldn't cause substantial issues for a large portion of the students you serve, is it something we want to pursue, knowing that it will certainly have a negative effect on at least a portion of the students, especially as it would pertain to providing resources for supporting the mental health issues that could be exacerbated by bringing a casino to town?</p>
145	<p>Patricia Dolan</p> <p>As a Centre Co. resident, mother, grand-mother, and great grandmother, I strongly oppose a casino in our community for numerous reasons. However, as an EDUCATIONAL institution, Penn State should be totally aware of the potential harm to their students of such a "business" so close to campus, let alone in the County! Penn State is already "known" as a party school, a place to purchase illegal drugs, and sexual promiscuity. And yet you now appear to approve of adding another obvious negative distraction for your students to deter many from studying what they've come to you to learn.</p> <p>Please reconsider giving any sort of approval to the plans for a casino in Centre County. For your students as well as our community members - for the above and many more reasons as noted by other members of society.</p> <p>Sincerely, Patricia Dolan, Bellefonte, PA</p>
146	<p>Laurie Ciolkosz</p> <p>To the Penn State Board of Trustees,</p> <p>As a Penn State faculty spouse and a parent of an up-and-coming Penn State student, I want to urge you to help protect our University from the negative effects of a casino being built at the Nittany Mall. We do not want a casino here because not only is gambling especially addictive for college-aged students, but it invites more crime, lowers real estate values, and requires more policing. Penn State has successfully fought the 'State Paddy' trend toward alcoholic partying, and I am confident the university will be able to join our local community in fighting this new threat of negative influences. Please act quickly to oppose the casino conversion of the Nittany Mall and help our community to pursue healthier solutions for that out-dated retail space. Thank you.</p>
147	<p>Zachary Simmons</p> <p>Penn State should protect its students and community by opposing the proposed Nittany Mall Casino with College Township and the PA Gaming Control Board. Proponents of this casino claim that it is a desirable form of entertainment that would provide harmless fun for our area. The reality is that thousands of Penn State students in their formative years would now have a convenient opportunity to experience the addictive high of casino life, teeing up another generation for problem gambling and a lifetime of financial hardship and personal tragedy. Besides this direct impact on students, this casino would more generally gain its profits primarily at the expense of those in State College who can afford it the least, increasing the economic inequality gap in our area by holding out the false hope of fast wealth to people who can't afford what they will certainly lose. What's more, children in Centre County like mine (I have five young kids) would grow up with the casino's marketing messages all around town teaching them that looking for wealth from slot machines is normal, shaping their imaginations and</p>

	<p>expectations about life and making them more susceptible to problem gambling later in life. In the course of my work I am responsible to help and give counsel to people who are poor and struggling to build a financially secure and personally independent life. A while back I was talking with a young man in precarious financial circumstances describing to me his habit of putting part of every paycheck towards the “skill games” at a nearby convenience store. Imagine how destructive the draw of this casino could be for him and other young people like him, especially Penn State students—offering them the prospect of quick money, but much more likely draining their fragile economic means and removing yet another barrier for them to sliding into addiction and other life problems. This young man is just one example of the thousands of Centre County’s most vulnerable whose lives could be seriously harmed if this casino opens, and Penn State's students are at the top of the list. I'm sure some people think the casino would be a harmless and fun addition of local color or have been wrongly persuaded that it will be good for the local economy. Please know that I and many others like me in Centre County do not agree. We are profoundly concerned because the opening of this casino would be a turning point in our community with severe economic and community consequences for generations and disastrous implications for Penn State's student body. Let’s stop these problems before they start. Please do all you can to convince College Township and the PA Gaming Control Board to say NO to the Nittany Mall Casino.</p>
<p>148</p>	<p>Paul Waldecker Good afternoon, I trust that the University will oppose instituting casinos in the State College area. With the lack of control displayed by the Greek organizations (evident by frequent corrective action) and the heavy financial burden on students (through student loans), the presence of a casino would further draw students to make poor decisions with lasting implications. In addition, while promoting an EQUIVALENT of 400 full time jobs, I expect it will more likely be 800 part time jobs with low wages, no health care, and create more community issues than anticipated.</p> <p>Penn State should be dedicated to improving the lives of the students that have been entrusted to their care. I understand that the surrounding community can make the decisions they feel are best. However, Penn State has been given a gift - to provide their input to this situation. To suggest the casino issue will not impact the students of Penn State would be equivalent to sticking one's head in the sand.</p> <p>Please note that these opinions are my own and are not intended to represent any other group or organization. And, they are submitted respectfully - Thank you for inviting community input.</p>
<p>150</p>	<p>Susanne Groenendaal Please show your disapproval for the casino. It will hurt us.</p>
<p>151</p>	<p>John Lacort PSU should be a good community neighbor and come down hard against the proposed casino. Besides the strong potential to bring undesirable elements to our community, what students do not need is another entity competing for their attention and money. A casino would be a huge distraction as well as a negative influence on young people who should be here for their higher education, and little else.</p>
<p>152</p>	<p>Rosemary Hagen September 20,2022 Dear Penn State Board of Trustees, We know that allowing a casino to be built in our area will bring in additional money because of its draw for more tourism dollars. Tourism is a very good thing. I understand that people are expecting hotels, stores and restaurants to benefit from the gambling industry. Tax dollars are a draw, too. However, it seems to us that adding a casino is a demonstrated negative draw compared with all the positive reasons people come here now. As decades-long residents, yearly scholarship providers and fans of all the positive effects that PSU has on the expanded Centre County area is the presence of an activity that desires addiction for profit. Gambling enriches the owners of the property and business. Research shows casinos bring with them people with addictive personalities and the troubles that addiction itself creates. Gambling has a high correlation to other addictions, along with job loss, failed relationships, broken families, and very serious debt which could require jail time. Why would we want to add another addiction to our growing drug and alcohol problems that already lead to failing college classes, codependencies, robberies, and even murders? Gambling problems are also heavily related to mental health problems, depression, anxiety and mood disorders. In addition, having a place to formally gamble adds yet another diversion from one's studies and being able to afford to remain in school financially as well as scholastically. We know that this area does not have enough counselors for students who need them in order to navigate the stresses of life as young people in transition from the known to the unknown world, being away from family and all that gave them a sense of</p>

	<p>security they need to have for success. And, canvassing student groups will show you know that a good number of students come to us with family or other relational and mental health problems that need to be addressed while living here. Therefore, we ask you why we would do anything to enhance that scenario?</p> <p>Have you ever watched a loved one unintentionally starve his/her family due to enormous debt to a casino instead of buying groceries, paying rent, etc.? A wife or husband being battered when objecting to their spouse's irresponsibly? A break in for valuables, credit cards, or cash to continue an addiction? All that and more would escalate with the availability of a casino in our area.</p> <p>Please join us concerned citizens who do not want a casino built here and who love this area because of the successful PSU family and uplifting atmosphere our university town has had.</p> <p>Sincerely yours, Mrs. Daniel Hagen</p>
153	<p>Noah Waldecker Penn State, I've lived in the area for over six-and-a-half years, and I've seen the way the students and Penn State are influenced by the environment they're placed in. I'm heavily involved in Penn State activities, and a number of my friends are Penn State students. Putting a casino anywhere near the university would encourage the formation of destructive habits among the college students and directly contradict your college's mission to prepare it's students for adult life. It would also damage the families that make up the community that supports your campus and create an unhealthy atmosphere in this region. As the largest organization in the area, you have a responsibility to positively impact the people around you, and having anything to do with the casino--either by permissive action or passive affirmation--will violate that responsibility. As both a participant in Penn State activities and a member of this community, I ask you to oppose this casino effort and everything involved with it. Thank you for your time. -Noah Waldecker</p>
154	<p>Ellen Coffman I hope PSU will use its clout to oppose the casino at the mall. I think it would have adverse effect on the college population.</p>
155	<p>Amy White Please oppose the mini-casino at the Nittany Mall.</p>
156	<p>Diana Malcom The students at our campus living in our community would be negatively impacted in many ways if this casino were approved. Please oppose this development as a board.</p>
157	<p>Christina Taheri I am writing to request that Penn State's Board of Trustees oppose the casino in the Nittany Mall.</p>
158	<p>Jessica March Please do everything you can to oppose the casino. I am concerned that the casino will put much negative stress on the university and the lives of its students. If you choose to do nothing in this critical time, the relationship between the university and its surrounding community will undoubtedly be weakened. Please act promptly, boldly, and clearly against the casino.</p>
159	<p>Amber Miller This letter is to voice my strong opposition to the proposed casino at Nittany Mall. Our family is a Penn State family. Both my husband and I went to school here, we work here, and our kids go to school here. We love the vibrant optimism of Happy Valley.</p> <p>Having a casino nearby goes against what we love about State College. Casinos represent greed and addiction for many and a negative element for our local townships. As an academic adviser, I am constantly helping students navigate the difficulties of moving into adulthood. There are many temptations and dangers that are amplified in our area due to our large student population, these include underage drinking, drugs, hazing, sexual assault, etc. Adding another negative pressure to their lives is not needed and Penn State does not have the resources to deal with the gambling addiction among the student population.</p> <p>My main worry, however, is that the culture of Happy Valley will change, lowering the value of getting a degree from Penn State. I read a recent article showing that the value of a Penn State education is one of the lowest among the Big 10 schools and the lowest value in Pennsylvania. The higher education landscape is changing, and people are concerned more and more about spending the amount of money needed for a college degree at an expensive institution like Penn State. What we have in our</p>

	<p>favor is the intangibles – the spirit and culture of Happy Valley, the fond memories of parents and alumni. We cannot afford to let our reputation as Happy Valley be tarnished by having a gambling casino nearby. We need the continued, unwavering support of parents and alumni so that we can keep having the privilege of educating their kids. We need to do everything we can to push back against anything that will potentially wear away at the reputation we have as Happy Valley.</p>
160	<p>John Dziak I am writing as an alumnus to urge the council to please oppose the impending establishment of a casino at the Nittany Mall location. I think that it would harm the academic and general well-being of many Penn State students and risk damaging the character of the Penn State experience. Thank you very much!</p>
161	<p>Henriette Schneider Please stop going forward with the plans for a proposed casino at the Nittany Mall. A casino will attract and create gambling addicts, which in turn will cause a rise in crime, drugs, alcohol abuse, drunken drivers and the arrival of pawn shops and the like. The current stores in the Nittany Mall cater mostly to the people living in the rural (poor) areas around State College, and they should definitely not be tempted to make some quick extra money by seeing a casino with slot machines every time they shop there. Also having a casino (and all that comes with it) in close proximity to PSU doesn't seem advisable, with many vulnerable young people there living on their own for the first time in their lives. Do we want State College to turn into Atlantic City? The answer is emphatically "NO"!</p>
162	<p>Keith Maurer I want to express my strong opposition to approving a casino near Penn State's campus. The potential for addiction and other negative influences makes it an unwanted part of our great community. Keith Maurer Class of 1980 business management</p>
163	<p>Sally McAneny I am opposed to the establishment of a casino in the region for the following reasons: 1. The state has reneged on its promise to use casino proceeds to offset local taxes and there is no reason to believe that this will change with the addition of another casino. I don't think the area will profit one bit from the opening of a casino. The profits would most certainly not benefit the university or the Centre region as a whole. 2. The location, in an area with retail businesses that attract families, is totally wrong. There is no good reason for this and I would hate to be a parent trying to explain the allure of flashing lights, bells, and whistles to a young child. Or an adolescent. Or a college student. 3. As a corollary to #2, I don't think a casino would contribute wholesome entertainment to the region. We certainly don't need another distraction. 4. I honestly think a casino would place undue demands on an already overtaxed police system. Thank you for your attention to this.</p>
164	<p>Laurie Mulvey I'd like to register my opposition to the proposed casino. If there are good reasons for it in terms of the well-being of our community, I could be convinced to support it. But I've observed an ongoing "development" of this region in ways that appear to maximize profit for people who don't live here. The proposed casino looks like another one of those endeavors. If this is not the case, please help the community to understand how this benefits us and our quality of life.</p>
165	<p>Andre Yablonsky It is unconscionable that not a peep has been heard from the PSU BOT, decrying the proposed Nittany Mall Casino, which, if approved, will be located a short 3.1 miles from Penn State's flagship campus! Is your silence due to your "blind loyalty," to Mr. Ira Lubert, an ex-BOT member, a 2017 \$5,000,000 donor and, egregiously, the primary, private financier, partnering with Bally's to install/operate the casino? Each of you must set aside your allegiance to Mr. Lubert, & send a crystal, clear message, to him, the present & future PSU UPark student body and their parents, and the Happy Valley public @ large, by coming out unanimously, denouncing the proposed casino, and calling for the Pa. Gaming Board to deny its license. Do the right thing! What are you waiting for? Otherwise, each and every one of you will be remembered throughout history, as selling out the high moral standards which Penn State stands for!</p>
166	<p>Randolph Hudson To the Trustees of Penn State University: Please do everything in your power to stop the proposed development of a casino in the Nittany Mall.</p>

	<p>The costs to our quality of life in the Centre Region, and the damage to Penn State’s reputation, are not worth it. Casinos bring crime, addiction, low-paying jobs, and a sleaze factor. The benefits accrue to absentee owners—appallingly, in this case, a Penn State trustee.</p> <p>As a three-generation Penn State family who have built our lives here, we ask that you honor the words of the Alma Mater: “May no act of ours bring shame”.</p> <p>Sincerely, G. Randolph Hudson and Cynthia Nixon Hudson Penn State class of 1973</p>
167	<p>Kathryn Shirk As a long-time resident (39+ years) of College Township, State College, and a Penn State graduate, I am strongly against the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall. With so many college students nearby (as well as lower-income and elderly populations), this establishment would only encourage more alcohol and drug abuse, as well as gambling addictions. Many studies also affirm that a casino attracts more crime and lowers local housing values. Please join us in opposing this casino at the mall.</p>
168	<p>Kristi Wormhoudt My husband and I are opposed to the casino that might be built in the former Macy’s department store building. We hope that the Board will support the opposition to the Casino since it would be a real detriment to our community-- both the town and the university. Casinos prey on the vulnerable which can include students. Please consider issuing a statement in support of those of us in the community who would never want to see a casino here. A strong statement from the Board might help to dissuade the sponsors of the casino from operating here.</p>
169	<p>Heather Ross Please support the opposition of a casino in our area. It will a serious distraction to our students, especially the ones who could develop life long gambling addictions. Our students are worth more than a few extra dollars or a few jobs. Please voice your opposition to a casino in Centre County.</p>
170	<p>Susan Strauss Dear Trustees, thank you for inviting these public comments and please consider carefully the positions of the thousands of PSU faculty and staff and parents of PSU students who have been actively striving to stop the casino from being built just 4 short miles from the PSU campus, and 2 miles from the 651-bed student housing facility currently being constructed on Squirrel Drive. I am and have been faculty at Penn State since 1998. I have been a resident of College Township since then as well. I am now also the parent of 4 PSU students, with two more who plan to apply for the next academic year. A casino does not fit the environment of State College. WE ARE better than that. WE ARE stronger than that. WE ARE smarter than that. It is imperative that the Board do everything in its power to voice a strong opposition to the casino being proposed here. The research is clear. It is chilling. There are literally no advantages to visitors of a casino beyond the entertainment value that a casino can provide. The true advantages, i.e., the economic ones, affect the developers, the Township, and the state. But the risks are many, and they are serious. And, sadly, the absolute most vulnerable members of our society to the risks of gambling and alcohol addiction are the very people who occupy the seats in our classrooms, our auditoriums, the very people who visit us during office hours, sharing their challenges and struggles, looking to us for support and confidence. How is it even possible that a casino might be built right here in our university town? We must do everything within our power to stop that casino and devise a more useful and versatile space that could inject life into the now nearly empty Nittany Mall, and one that will be equally if not more profitable than a casino. We have the brightest and most creative minds right here in our midst. Surely we can find a better, safer, more economically fruitful business to take over the former Macy’s space, and one that does not create such a serious risk or threat to our very own students?</p>
171	<p>Tori Alex There are 19 casinos already open in PA, how many more do we need? Not a good message to send our students or young people in the community. Penn State has already dropped down in popularity as the best university for value in the U.S. I’m pretty sure that even more parents would hesitate sending their kids to Penn State if a casino is built so close-by.</p>
172	<p>Ellen Jankowski My husband and I have lived in State College for 35 years. We are distressed to learn of the proposed opening of a casino here. I believe that a casino will have a detrimental effect on the quality of life in State College. I also believe that parents will be concerned about sending their child to a university where a casino is present in the community. This concern of parents would</p>

	<p>have a direct effect on enrollment at Penn State. I am aware that some Penn State students have severe financial struggles. Having a casino opens the possibility of gambling addiction, which is not going to help any student's financial situation.</p>
173	<p>Taran Samarth</p> <p>The apparent removal of oral public comment for this meeting is disheartening. Since public comment began more than a decade ago, the Board has slowly introduced structural changes that have discouraged participation -- bumping the public comment time earlier and earlier, sending the public into a separate room, and now ending oral comment -- without announcement -- at a meeting with items that have attracted substantial public attention (the budget and alcohol sales). Changes to the scheduled times and available modes of public comment confound any conclusion that declining comments given per meeting is equivalent to declining interest in giving public comment itself.</p> <p>Amidst rumors made public in a Collegian op-ed that the administration has quietly suspended the search for the director of the Center for Racial Justice, frustrations voiced during Faculty Senate academic unit visits (especially at Commonwealth campuses) over low morale and disrespect for shared governance, and anxieties over unknown ramifications from the budget, now is not the time for the Board to continue its years-long effort to draw the curtains on public comment. It's the perfect time to the exact opposite, really, by holding oral public comment regularly (at a time when students are able to attend!) and, when possible, engaging with faculty, staff, and students face-to-face through open and public discussions. Rumor and discontent spread when the public is feels voiceless and in the dark. But honest public engagement and expansive transparency are potent antidotes, and the Board should opt to administer them.</p>
174	<p>Adrienne Waterston</p> <p>I am disappointed and concerned about losing access and transparency to the workings of the Board of Trustees for PSU. I understand that public comment can only now be submitted by writing. This form you have for submitting comments seems to be designed to be intimidating. Especially with budget cuts in the works, transparency in how the university is doing operating and allocating these cuts will be critical to making sure that the public can assess whether the university's decisions align with its educational objectives.</p>
175	<p>Kristen Osborne Carroll</p> <p>I'm writing to express my opposition to a casino opening in our beautiful area. I understand the financial appeal such a business may have, and I know it must be difficult to turn down the promise of jobs and revenue. However, I also understand that a casino may also bring with it some highly undesirable effects. I won't list those effects here, as I am certain you're already aware of them. I will, however, echo what I know so many others in this community have already said — the potential negatives outweigh potential positives. As a Penn State faculty member who cares an awful lot for her students, and as a mother of two young children, I fully support any effort by our local leadership to prevent a casino from opening anywhere in the Centre Region.</p> <p>Thank you for your time! Sincerely, Kristen L. Osborne Carroll</p>
176	<p>Karen Johnson</p> <p>I oppose the proposed Casino for our County suggested to be located at the Mall. It may bring money to the area, BUT it encourages patrons to gamble money away from their families (see publication of Nat'l Academies Press, 1999, by the Comm. On the Social and Economic Impact of Pathological Gambling). An MIT study by Grenoble & Mustard (2006) reported an increase in crime in counties that had Casinos. Reject the Casino!!!</p>
177	<p>Don León</p> <p>Dear Trustee Members and President Bendapudi,</p> <p>As a resident of State College for 43 years and a retired Penn State Emeritus Professor of architecture who chaired the State College Design review board for several years, I am sickened by the news that our Penn State University academic standing has fallen to last in the Big Ten and nationally as low as 67 in some programs of study. To make matters worse, we now have to envision a community with an already serious drinking problem being able to buy beer in the football stadium. And on the horizon – a proposed casino that will be profitable to the BALLY organization but damaging to students and community homeowners. Joe Paterno must be rolling in his grave. Paterno was seriously opposed to building the baseball stadium due to their plan to sell alcohol.</p> <p>It's time to get serious and take a stand by emulating former president Dr. Frank Rhodes at Cornell University who placed academic study before the task of raising money. He saw academics as the basis of all the competence one brings to our</p>

	<p>professional tasks. Time to get serious! Time for Penn State to dig in their heels and do the right thing. Speak out against the casino. It's time do everything we can to bring Penn State to an elite status.</p>
178	<p>Carol Dwyer Please oppose (via a board resolution) having a casino in the Centre County area. This type of "business" does not help the economy or the well-being of the broader community.</p>
179	<p>Eli Byrne To The Penn State Board Of Trustees: I urge Penn State to use its influence to oppose the opening of any casino in the Centre Region.</p> <p>1) Gambling addiction is a serious problem nationwide and worldwide. It is as much a hazard of the human condition as drug addiction. Many opioid addicts would never have become addicts if they had not been prescribed opioids for pain relief, and many gambling addicts will never gamble unless the opportunity presents itself. When so many area residents are facing financial hardships, the attraction of easy money at a local casino could further sink the bank accounts of residents and students. This is good for profits, but disastrous for communities!</p> <p>2) It will not be profitable for the Centre Region or the University. Most of the casino profits will go to the parent company and not be re-spent in the community, reducing revenue streams for the Bryce Jordan Center, Penn State Football, local businesses and charities. Moreover, there will be a dramatic increase in demand for local social services and Penn State resources as people discover their addiction and ruin their lives and academic careers (students, faculty and staff alike).</p> <p>3) Cash rich businesses are prime operations for money laundering and inherently attract much more dangerous elements of organized crime, even if the original business owners want nothing to do with crime. When hard core criminals show up and tell you to play ball, nobody can be expected to withstand that kind of pressure. Once organized crime is involved, can drug dealing, prostitution and ultimately human trafficking be far behind? Do you want to start reading about female students and other young women disappearing? Did you read about the bodies recently discovered in Oklahoma? This level of crime is not only in the movies - do not invite it here!</p> <p>4) Any business preying on people's weaknesses is morally corrupt. I'm not suggesting every bet is evil - it can be harmless fun, and it can fund charities or social services like our PA Lottery. But gambling is not as easy to limit as alcohol, which can also be harmless in small doses but disastrous for addicts. Bartenders are required to stop serving drinks to customers who drink too much. But have you ever heard of a casino barring customers from betting because they lost too much? The customers might arguably have a right to demand a chance to win back their losses.</p> <p>5) Once there is one casino, there will surely be competition! Let's nip this in the bud! Allowing a casino here has disaster written all over it. I dread the thought of how this lovely community, where I have lived since 1961, will decline, and I dread the thought of how many lives will be ruined and how many local young people will fall prey to the increased level of crime this will bring! DON'T GAMBLE THE FUTURE OF THIS COMMUNITY! Sincerely, Eli Byrne, Graduate Faculty, Mathematics and Operations Research</p>
180	<p>Madhu Suri Prakash To Members of the PSU Board of Trustees:</p> <p>As a Professor of Education in this community for more than forty years, I share all the concerns extensively documenting the ill-effects of the proposed Casino in the Nittany Mall.</p> <p>The impeccable research on the Casino's net pitfalls undertaken by our community reveals an admirable commitment to the well-being of people over profits. The conclusion of this exhaustive study is indubitable: the Casino will contribute to extensive damage and suffering in Happy Valley, calling its very name into question</p> <p>Please protect our community from the immense harm that this Casino will inevitably bring. Sincerely, Madhu Suri Prakash, Emerita Professor</p>

181	<p>Susan Person Dear Board Members, I am writing to ask your help in whatever way possible to oppose the development of a casino in Centre County. As I have become more informed, I have become increasingly concerned about the negative impacts a casino would have on our region. From increased crime to human trafficking, from gambling addictions to student poverty and financial distress, from decreased property values to parental concerns about risks of their children attending PSU, I believe our entire community -- town and gown -- will be adversely impacted. I have attended township meetings over the past month, hearing testimonies from healthcare professionals, mental health professionals, retirees, a former PSU Trustee Board Member, PSU students, family members of those with gambling addictions, individuals from all walks of life, all in opposition to the proposed Nittany Mall Casino. I implore you to do everything possible to help stop this casino from being built in our community. Thank you.</p>
182	<p>Edward Kaiser Dear Penn State Board of Trustees, We are encouraged that you are "laser-focused on the safety and success of all parts of the Penn State community". Please use your influence to voice your opposition to the proposed casino in State College! You can make a big difference. Thank you! Best regards, ~Edward Kaiser</p>
183	<p>Catherine Cohan I would like to register my opposition to building a casino in State College at the Nittany Mall. I live close to the mall in Lemont and do not want to see my property value negatively affected by the presence of a casino. Would you want a casino in your neighborhood? The low crime rate in this area is a significant aspect of our quality of life here. I do not want to see our quality of life in Happy Valley diminished by increased crime resulting from a casino. Thank you for your consideration and support against a casino in State College.</p>
184	<p>Vaughn Shirk As a long term resident of College Township, I am strongly opposed to a casino in our area. It is a proven fact that crime and gambling addiction increase when a casino is introduced. SC area already has major issues with alcohol. Local businesses can not not fill jobs. It is a proven fact that there is no local economic benefit. PSU needs to oppose this casino.</p>
185	<p>Ann Pangborn I strongly oppose the Casino being proposed for the Nittany Mall. The harm to the community out-weighs any benefit. Students do not need MORE unwholesome diversions. Students are often stressed financially: the lure of a casino will lead students to spend money they need for school. Gambling is addictive. Penn State's Psychological services are already stressed beyond capacity. A casino will harm our community. It is shameful that someone in the PSU "family" is ignoring public sentiment and pushing forward with this detrimental idea that will enrich a few while hurting so many. Please use your power to stop this.</p>
186	<p>Marguerite Ciolkosz I am very much opposed to the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall. With the high population of the most vulnerable to addiction age group (especially Penn State students) in our community, it is unconscionable to allow such a highly addictive operation to be placed within easy access of our youths and young adults. I can only imagine the many lives that could and will be destroyed if we fail to prevent the approval of this blight on our community. Please do not allow the casino.</p>
187	<p>Peggy Myers Dear Board of Trustees, My husband, Don, and I are very much opposed to a casino being at the Nittany Mall. As you likely know, judgment isn't fully developed in young people until about 25 years of age. It's very risky for young folks, especially after drinking an alcoholic beverage, to head to a casino and know when it's time to stop gambling. Parents have enough concerns when they send their children off to college. Is it really necessary to add to those concerns with a casino close by? It has been a disappointment that the Board of Trustees has not spoken out in opposition to the casino considering the damage and heartbreak casinos can cause to so many young people's lives as well as the lives of their families. Please state your opposition to the proposed casino before it's too late. Thank you for letting us share our views. Peggy Myers</p>

188	<p>Lakshman Yapa I am writing to express my opposition and displeasure at the proposal to approve a casino at the Nittany Mall. This is contradictory to the mission of a public land grant university to associate ourselves with activities that lead to addictive behavior and the potential financial ruin of members of our community, and of course our students.</p>
189	<p>Kristen Boccumini I would like to express my concern about the proposed casino at Nittany Mall. I would like the Board of Trustees to speak out against this, specifically to write a letter to the PA Gaming Control Board stating PSU does not want a casino in this town as it would put students of age at risk and impact the safety of the University. Please take a stand against the proposed casino.</p>
190	<p>Alli Eeickson Your consideration for opposing the proposed casino is important. Students are living in a time when so many things are trying to get their time and attention, they don't need one more thing. A casino can produce additional financial strain in a time where so many are already experiencing significant struggle to pay off student loans. Let's find ways to support our students and not give them more opportunities to be distracted and fail.</p>
191	<p>Joanne Santamaria I'm from Connecticut, land of OZ, We have 2 casinos. They rise majestically from our green southeastern hills. It's surreal. Remember what they say about Oz,</p> <p>Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain. Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun, 'creative' sources of revenue Each with many stories Stories of hope, but false hope.</p> <p>Children left in cars as parents gamble, hoping for that win. Children stuck, no positive socialization, no academic stimulation, gaps in learning, no friends. Many tales of loss, of home and hearth, of car, of family savings. Students having to move, leaving their home, neighbors, changing schools, total readjustment.</p> <p>And teachers, paying the price when such students act out in class, and they do. And other students paying the price when acting out disrupts their education, and it does.</p> <p>At a wedding we happened to be seated with a Blackjack dealer who said he could count on less than one hand actual winners. Slot machines were defined as piggy banks for the casinos. Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain. But...Let's pay attention to what is right in front of us. Casinos are more destructive than creative They cost more than their worth</p>
192	<p>Emily Wenda Our family strongly opposes the proposed casino. We moved here 15 years ago for quality of life and uniqueness of this community. A casino will be devastating to the Penn State students and families with all the dangers of crime, human trafficking, dangerous people, poverty and addiction it will bring. Allowing a casino to smear this community will certainly make us reconsider Penn State as an option for our four children. We want nothing to do with it. Please listen, a casino is a bad idea for the next generation.</p>
193	<p>Kyle Becker I'm writing to encourage you to weigh in with an opinion to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB) opposing the plans for a Casino in the Centre region. Research indicates a negative ROI for communities hosting such venues. It will prey on the combined population of retirees and students that make up our region. As a neighbor within walking distance of Campus Beaver Stadium I also strongly oppose the sale of Alcohol at sporting events and question the values the university is instilling in young minds.</p>
194	<p>Don Colburn Gambling destroys people.</p>

195	<p>Lara Carter I am opposed to the casino at the mall. My husband is an alumni and recovering gambling addict, a habit that began during his college years. The exposure and opportunity the casino will provide to our community and the students would be detrimental and unsafe.</p>
196	<p>Paula Hesse The Board of Trustees of Penn State should not favor the establishment of a Casino at the Nittany Mall. There is insufficient evidence that it will prove an economic boon to the local community and a great deal of evidence of the negative effect a gambling facility can have on the student body, especially the male population.</p>
197	<p>Grace Irwin Please, please, please do all that you can do to stop the opening of a casino at the Nittany Mall in Centre County! As you know, the frontal cortex of a human being is not full developed until the age of 25 years of age. A casino is bad news for any community for so many reasons that have been discussed over and over, but to put one here near PSU with impressionable young people, is a recipe for disaster. Thank you Grace Irwin</p>
198	<p>Holly Keen Please present your opposition to the proposed casino for Centre County. Our college students face so many challenges and things that distract them from their education. I see this as a money pit for the students...they already face so much debt from student loans...please don't allow a casino that would allow them to think of it as an easy way make money and stay out of debt. Keep the integrity of our community above reproach. Thank you!</p>
199	<p>Margaret Higgins I'm writing to urge the trustees to oppose the proposal to allow a casino on the Nittany Mall property.</p> <p>As a resident of the State College Borough and an Academic Advisor at Penn State University, I am aware of the vulnerability of our low-income and student populations who will be tempted to gamble their available cash. Students in particular may use funds sourced through student loans and don't have the maturity to understand the detrimental long-term effect of spending their money this way, and the profound risk of becoming addicted.</p> <p>The area would benefit far more from an entertainment venue that is family-friendly and doesn't prey on local residents. There is plenty of evidence that casinos do not reinvigorate local communities as predicted. Instead, property values decrease and crime rates increase.</p> <p>It would be short-sighted to allow a Casino to open in this space, and the risks outweigh the perceived benefits. Please do not allow this proposal to move forward.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of my comments.</p>
200	<p>Adeline Aileo At a time of budget cuts, of creation of new (and previously inexistant) positions at the highest levels with high salaries while giving a low raise to employees and setting up a hiring freeze, the community needs more transparency, not less. Cancelling oral public comments and asking them in writing ahead of time doesn't give a sense of trust to the community. What else is coming that you would want to silence people?</p>
201	<p>Maria Truglio I am very concerned about the cancellation of the oral public comment portion of the BOT meeting. Has this 500-word written format replaced the oral format going forward? If so, I strongly urge the board to reconsider this move. Penn State Administration is, sadly, notoriously for its lack of transparency and its top-down governance model which keeps stake holders in the dark in decision making processes. The elimination of the opportunity for stake holders to address the Board face to face and to speak in real time is a dangerous step in the wrong direction, and suggests that the board fears having to look constituents in the eye. This move must be reversed to assure faculty, staff, students, and alumni that you are not silencing us.</p>
202	<p>Katharine Donnelly Adams Please do everything you can to stop the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall.</p>

203	<p>Steven Smith</p> <p>It is disheartening to not hear of any Penn State opposition to the proposed casino. The board of trustees and the administration have to know of the deleterious effects of gambling, both on society as a whole and on young people, who are supposed to be protected and educated by Penn State while they are here, not drained of even more money. Penn State needs to oppose this casino, not support it, despite the ownership by a wealthy alum.</p> <p>In addition, the proposed sale of alcohol in Beaver Stadium is a colossal mistake. There are already enough drunks inside the stadium. Earth to administration: People are drinking heavily at tailgates. This will necessitate more training for more employees, as most vendors are not university employees and are not trained to recognize signs of impairment. This is a mistake and yet another example of the university's efforts to be a "bad neighbor" to this community. Stop being a force for bad and start being a positive influence on this area. You have two prominent choices to make. Do the right thing!</p>
204	<p>Patti Reddington</p> <p>As a alumni and 40 year resident of College Township, I am strongly opposed to a casino so close to my home and to the PSU student population. Please do everything you can to OPPOSE the casino at the Nittany Mall. I am deeply concerned of the negative impact that the closest of the gambling most likely will have in our community. Research has already shown the negative impacts created by gambling. Respectfully, Patti Reddington</p>
205	<p>Casino.</p> <p>I'm writing to ask you to please do whatever you can to oppose the development of the casino at the Nittany Mall location. I am a clinical psychologist, yoga teacher in the Kinesiology department at PSU, and part of our local business community as co-owner of Yoga Lab in downtown State College. I am very concerned about the impact this casino will have on the health and well-being of Penn State students and our State College community. Please do everything you can to stop the development of this casino.</p> <p>Thank you, ~Anna Engels</p>
206	<p>Samuel Hoskins</p> <p>Dear Penn State Board of Trustees,</p> <p>I would guess that you have heard many concerns about having a casino in the mall or anywhere in Happy Valley, and about the damage that gambling can do. I agree with those arguments. Considering the fact that there are public service announcements about problems caused by addiction to gambling, as a society we seem to agree that there is a significant downside to it.</p> <p>In fact, I cannot understand why people view gambling as good. There are stories about people winning it big and being set for life; however, winning it big can be very detrimental to people and the community. Especially young adults, who do not fully understand the value of work and money. Some might argue that a casino creates jobs that pay "good". Where does the money for those wages come from? Perhaps some of it comes from people who simply enjoy the sport of it and can afford to lose money, but this does not apply to most college students. Additionally, the cost of the license for \$10,000,000, would require 10,000 people to lose \$1,000 before there is money to renovate the building and the "good" wages are paid.</p> <p>Gambling does not produce wealth, like farming, manufacturing, or other industries, where the labor adds value to a product which increases the price someone will pay for it. Nor does it add value to a person like educating them to solve problems and understand the world around them to make a positive contribution to society. Gambling is at best a transfer of wealth, generally from people who cannot afford it to at least one person in this case who already has millions (the casino license owner).</p> <p>What is the value to the community? I see none, but in fact the opposite. Whether or not someone or several people benefit from gambling (increased tax revenue, more jobs, a non-vacant mall, etc.), there is a net loss to our community or to other communities. Why bring that kind of influence to Happy Valley? Why bring that to a college town where there are many young adults who are facing new challenges, developing new habits and at times seeking a way to escape? With the promise of wealth just a short bus ride away, why add that temptation to the choices that they are making?</p> <p>Sincerely, Sam Hoskins</p>

207	<p>James Freihaut</p> <p>I am vehemently opposed to the proposed Casino operations in the State College area. Having lived in a State (CT) that allowed such establishments, it can be documented that the net tax revenue and ancillary business activity benefits to the hosting community are marginal at best and, when all human condition effects are taken into account, have a net negative societal impact. I would think the combined intellectual creativity of the University, combined with the expertise found in local town and townships governance, should lead to a more foundational and diverse set of economic growth plans. Establishing an operation that relies on community members - whether they be long term, residential citizens or short term student community members - to loose wealth in all its forms, rather than pursue activities that utilize and create community and personal wealth , is antithetical to everything a University community should represent. A University's role is to provide with certainty a milieu of lasting personal self-actualization and community growth, not support a game of chance that almost always leads to the lack of lasting personal and community actualization.</p>
208	<p>Paul Whitehead</p> <p>Please oppose the casino idea for State College. Casino disadvantages far outweigh the advantages. State College has been a reasonably prosperous town for decades. It has no strong need for a casino. Among U.S. localities and cities, establishing a casino is often what a declining local economy does in desperation. We need not be desperate. Let's promote more constructive investment in our town. What's more, casinos act as a regressive tax, drawing money out of the pockets of medium- and lower-income people and funneling it to well-to-do casino owner. As for our students, why in the world should a university that is dedicated to long-term investment in student success EVER promote "get-rich-quick" ideology? Reject this odious casino thinking: declare your understanding tReject the ideas of chance and engineered "odds." Promote the old-fashioned values of thrift and investment!! Thank you for considering these views.</p>
209	<p>Michelle Rodino</p> <p>Dear Board Members:</p> <p>At a time when the administration is promising more budget cuts for Penn State amid record financial strength, we need greater not less transparency. Therefore, I oppose the elimination of the oral public comments at the Board of Trustees meetings. Penn State should be governed in a way that benefits members of the Commonwealth as well as students, employees, and wider community members. We should also be mindful that students and employees come to Penn State from across the globe. Shutting down oral comment further narrows decision making and creates barriers to access from diverse stakeholders and voices. Please open back up public comment. Better still, take steps to make it easier to participate in Board of Trustees business, which is the business of governing the university. Please publish our public comments in public.</p>
210	<p>Earl Carver</p> <p>A casino at Nittany Mall or any other location is a bad idea. Gambling can easily become an addiction and ruination of a life. Having such a potential life tragedy threat close to our Penn State students is unwise and in fact foolish.</p>
211	<p>Dorothy Blair</p> <p>Penn State University strives to build moral character in its students. As a faculty member, and teacher, I introduced my students to issues of world poverty, inequality, and global/local issues of hunger and climate change. If cultivating the student mind and increasing student focus on higher goals is an objective of a degree at Penn State, then why in the world would we tolerate the distraction and very real harm of a casino so close to campus? If the casino is allowed to be constructed here, our laissez faire policy will reflect very badly on the university and sully our reputation. Student mental health should be front and center when we appraise this issue.</p> <p>A gambling casino with its multiple flashy games, high levels of manufactured excitement, ready access to alcohol, and distracting entertainment uses the misfortune of others, in this case our students. to pay PA real estate taxes in a non-means-tested way. It enriches the few and has the potential for a disastrous impact on students' financial health. Only 35% of the profits go to tax relief; 45% go to the casino firm, and 13 percent are used to promote more gambling--horse racing.</p> <p>While many think of gambling as entertainment, gambling is also a critical public health issue for our youth. Gambling significantly and negative impacts our society at large and creates problematic gamblers, about 4-5% of the adult population. But the most critical impact is on young people and college-age students.</p> <p>The National Academy of Sciences' "Pathological Gambling, a Critical Review,"1999 (352p), estimates that 20% of college students have the potential to be problematic gamblers, 4 times the level in adults.</p> <p>Gambling at a casino is a menacing distraction from the purposes of academic study at Penn State. Our students are already distracted by Big Ten sport competitions, alcohol, drugs, and fraternity life. Why would our trustees sit by complacently while</p>

	<p>vulnerable students are given a new venue to divert their attention, extract their cash and perhaps ruin their life? Science has demonstrated the threat of Casinos to students under your care. A "look the other way" attitude will come back to haunt you. No casino should be built two miles away from 46,000 undergrads.</p> <p>Thank you for providing this chance to comment, Dorothy Blair</p>
212	<p>Carolyn Bingham</p> <p>I urge the Penn State Trustees to do whatever they can to oppose the casino planned for the Nittany Mall. Creating a center for gambling in our local area is a tragic mistake that will continue to cause hardship for those already bearing a heavy load of suffering in our surrounding local areas. Anyone who has ever popped their head into a casino door has likely seen what I have: an elderly woman, standing in front of a slot machine, surrounded by her belongings and with shoes off because so many hours have passed there... it is an addiction. Period. Our surrounding areas are rife with substance abuse of all kinds, grandparents are raising the children of addiction's victims. Desperate people will come to the casino in the wild, irrational hopes that this time, it might just work. More lives will thus be damaged. You have no doubt seen the data. External costs to the community to address these harms, and the array of more damages that go hand-in-hand and will involve law enforcement, will far outweigh taxes collected and whatever private benefits are accrued. Please, do not let this happen. Thank you.</p>
213	<p>Dean Christian</p> <p>I am writing to ask you to do whatever you can to prevent a construction of a casino in the State College area. While once upon a time I thought that it's up to an individual if they want to visit a casino and their actions do not affect others, in the last two years my opinion has changed. I'm concerned about the addictive properties of gambling and although there are services available, those who need them most do not seek them out. I've seen the damage done to families as they deal with bankruptcy and attempted suicide. When someone chooses to gamble it affects more than just themselves; it affects their children, spouse, extended family, colleagues at work, friends, and more. As a parent, I do not want my children attending a university so close to a casino. Please do whatever you can to oppose the construction of the casino.</p>
214	<p>Jaylene Smith</p> <p>As an alumni and local resident I am strongly opposed to the proposed Nittany Mall Casino. I respectfully request you to research the negative effects it would have on the student population who are even more susceptible to addictions like gambling. Penn State deserves better than to have this casino ruin our Happy Valley. Please oppose this project to the PA Gaming Board.</p>
215	<p>Patricia Hummer</p> <p>As someone with decades long connections to the University and College Township, I wish to voice my hope that the University will take a public stand against the proposed Casino coming to town. It saddens me to know that a former chair of our Board of Trustees would be put growing his personal wealth ahead of the good of our community—a community in which he does not live. I see very little benefit to our community to outweigh the potential harm this casino will bring.</p> <p>We are already seeing some erosion to the quality of life for our local townspeople due to the continued sprawl of University building and the resultant change to the local landscape. The addition of a casino will do nothing to improve that.</p> <p>I respectfully request that the University use its significant weight in officially adding their voice to those opposing the opening of this casino.</p> <p>Sincerely, Patricia (Trish) Hummer, '82 Advertising</p>
216	<p>Michelle Rodino-Colocino</p> <p>Dear Board Members:</p> <p>As you know, Penn State is enjoying record financial strength. Our published audited financial statements show that. So do our stellar credit ratings from Moody's and S&P. Our \$5 billion in non-donor restricted funding should provide us with a source of support should small downfalls hit. These billions should not be looked at as a mountain to make even higher. Penn State's core mission is to serve members of the Commonwealth and the world. As a public, land-grant university, our mission is not to extract from programs that engage in such service, but to support them and the people that make them work. Penn State should support the students and community members who benefit. As our mission statement emphasizes, "As Pennsylvania's land-grant university, we provide unparalleled access to education and public service to support the citizens of the</p>

	<p>Commonwealth and beyond." https://www.psu.edu/this-is-penn-state/mission-and-values/. Therefore, I ask that you cancel 3% recession on academic programs at Penn State. Cancel plans to make financial cuts to academic programs. End the hiring freeze. Fully fund the More Rivers to Cross call to hire fifty tenure-track Black faculty in 5 years https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/sites.psu.edu/dist/a/13525/files/2021/03/More-Rivers-to-Cross-Black-Faculty-and-Academic-Racism-at-Penn-State-University-Part-2-1.pdf.</p> <p>Fully fund the Center for Racial Justice and fully staff it. Restore funding cut at Altoona for the performing arts and other programs. Fully restore funding at campuses across the Commonwealth. Raise the pay of full-time faculty who earn incomes below or near the poverty line, and make pay equitable and competitive with other universities. Raise pay for employees to keep up with inflation. Give more and deeper discounts to students so that they do not have to go into debt to attend Penn State. We can afford it. As Board of Trustees members, you understand this. Please do the right thing here.</p>
217	<p>Lisa Richardson</p> <p>I am opposed to the proposed casino at Nittany Mall. I believe it will have a negative impact on the overall business community as people who spend their money at the casino won't be spending money at businesses and restaurants downtown, next to the university, that support ALL students, faculty, and community members. Casinos are an extractive business, they aren't family friendly, and it changes the character of the town in a negative way. This hurt economic development plans, recruiting new faculty and students, and causes problems for some. I think it is the worst possible economic development plan and I think we can and must do better.</p>
218	<p>Gary King</p> <p>Dear Trustees,</p> <p>I strongly encourage you to read the op-ed entitled, "Ain't Nobody Dreaming Now" that appeared one week ago today in the Collegian on Wednesday, September 14th. I am attaching the reference link:</p> <p>https://www.collegian.psu.edu/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-to-the-editor-ain-t-nobody-dreaming-now/article_7615a838-33e9-11ed-afc3-3b7f77526235.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share</p> <p>Regards, Professor Gary King</p>
219	<p>Mryna Yearick</p> <p>Dear Trustees,</p> <p>As a resident of the Centre Region, I wish to express my opposition to the presence of a casino at the Nittany Mall. This addition to our community would have many more detrimental effects than positive ones. Thank you for your attention to this serious matter. I believe upon examination of the facts you will oppose this project.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
220	<p>Loretta Jeffreys</p> <p>There may be, as Trump once said, "good people on both sides" of the issue of the casino, but their motivations are different. One side is motivated by financial gain, and the other by concern for the students and for the message Penn State sends by being quiet. We value money over virtue, and gain by chance over gain from hard work. Where do you stand. Your silence says it all.</p>
221	<p>Mary Serene</p> <p>Please do not support the establishment of a casino in State College.</p>