

**Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)**

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**From:** John <otherwhen@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 3:32 PM  
**To:** GB, Board Clerk  
**Subject:** [External] State College Mall Casino

***ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA\_SPAM@pa.gov.*

Dear Board Members:

I believe that opening a casino at the Nittany Mall would be a bad thing for the State College community. Instead of helping the local economy, it will attract degenerate gamblers, grifters and other criminals into our area. In addition, many low income families will be tempted to gamble away their rent and food money in this boondoggle.

Please put a halt to this misbegotten project. The only winners will be casino operators and petty thieves.

Sincerely,

John F. Carr  
Boalsburg, PA

## Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

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**From:** GB, PGCB  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 8:26 AM  
**To:** Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)  
**Subject:** FW: [External] NO to Casino in State College

**From:** Leon, Georgina <gxl2@psu.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 8:18 AM  
**To:** GB, PGCB <RA-PGCB@pa.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] NO to Casino in State College

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Come on -- please -- this area does NOT need a casino! I am firmly in opposition to one being discussed at the current Nittany Mall. It will do little for local citizens and will bring more "gambling types" to the area who will eventually -- inevitably -- lose more than they win. The government has a responsibility to oversee enterprises that would **help** a community, not degrade it. Please do not allow this project to go forward.

Gina Hershey Leon  
527 Orlando Ave.  
State College, PA 16803

**Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)**

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**From:** Beth <beth.eckert@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 11:54 AM  
**To:** GB, Board Clerk  
**Subject:** [External] Mini-Casino at the Nittany Mall

**ATTENTION:** *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA\_SPAM@pa.gov.*

Good Day,

I'm writing to voice my opposition to the proposed mini-casino by Bally's Corporation at the Nittany Mall in College Twp. in State College, PA.

It has been announced that Bally's Corp and Mr. Ira Lubert intend to develop a Category 4 Mini-Casino in the former Macy's Department Store location at the Nittany Mall. *I am in complete opposition* with bringing this business to our community. The negative affects of bringing gambling into our community far outweigh any possible positive impact. Anyway you spin the "excitement" of gambling, the reality is that it tears individuals, families, and communities apart. The business is NOT needed in our community!

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Regards,  
Beth A. Eckert  
Boalsburg, PA 16827

**Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)**

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**From:** Patty Reddington <pattyred@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 15, 2021 8:28 AM  
**To:** GB, Board Clerk  
**Subject:** [External] SC Gaming OpCo. LLC Cat 4 Casino

**ATTENTION:** *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to [CWOPA\\_SPAM@pa.gov](mailto:CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov).*

Dear Clerk,

Please do not allow a casino to be built in State College. While I am all for peoples individual freedoms, I simply cannot think of one good reason to have a casino in our town. I just cannot see one redeeming factor to sitting inside gambling, there are so many other ways to pass your time and spend your money.

There are plenty of casinos for people to go to and gamble in other areas. I do not see them traveling to Central PA in order to do so. State College is growing beyond it's means, there are jobs unfilled at more reputable establishments.

I I feel the casino will just become another abandoned establishment after an initial flurry of activity.  
Thank you,  
Patricia Reddington

## Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

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**From:** Kirk Heller <kirkheller@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2021 11:19 AM  
**To:** GB, Board Clerk  
**Subject:** [External] Nittany Mall Casino

**ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to [CWOPA\\_SPAM@pa.gov](mailto:CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov).

I'm writing to encourage the opposition of a casino going into the Nittany Mall in State College, Centre County.

Aside from the more well known negative side effects that a casino has on a community, I would like to draw attention to three unique conditions within Centre County.

The first of these is the economic strains a casino will place upon the locally established businesses. At first glance, it is often assumed that the presence of a casino would result in monetary influx into the local community. However, please consider that any additional foot traffic brought into the locality by the casino would be specific to the casino itself and primarily during football weekends. This means the majority of incoming finances would ultimately go towards the casino with a positive effect on the locally established businesses being negligible at best. Indeed, given the Mall's central (and distant) location in the state, the majority of patrons would most likely be students and locals during the off-season. This already established and static monetary base would now be funneled away from local businesses into the casino itself. Given that we are still reeling from the economic downturn of a lockdown by the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses that have survived thus far would expect to continue to see a dearth of profit. A casino is certainly not something that would be wise to introduce into the current environment.

Second, would be the direct effect it would have on State College's largest asset: the student population. As a college town, we have a responsibility to promote the health and well being of the visiting residents (students) to achieve their greatest talents. Statistically we can see that the presence of a casino has significant potential to detrimentally affect this goal. Students, more than adults, have a greater propensity to gamble (18% doing so weekly) and to become addicted to it as well (with 6% developing a serious problem). While these numbers may seem minor, the cumulative effect of this rate, over time, cannot be understated. Funds, which are already tight for students, or borrowed federally or privately, should be used for their education and livelihood. (<https://collegegambling.org/just-facts/gambling-disorders-among-college-students>)

Of course, we are not responsible for how students spend their money, but providing a casino to quickly lose the funds from their accounts would make us negligent at best and culpable at worst. With the events of the past decade already giving State College a couple of black eyes, there is no reason to invite another by providing a means by which the careers of students can be so horribly derailed.

Lastly, we know that the negative effects of a casino disproportionately impact ethnic and minority groups within a community (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2737691/>), the groups that Centre County is blessedly diverse in. After making gains against disparities for underrepresented groups in the past few years, it would be unwise and ultimately damaging to introduce a facility that has been shown to be so counterproductive to this forward progress.

The allure of a casino is understandably great. But we must be prudent and acknowledge that not all gold is real gold and not all gains are ultimately profitable.

-Kirk Heller

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I am because You are I Am.

**Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)**

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**From:** Garen W. Smith <gwss4@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2021 12:41 PM  
**To:** GB, Board Clerk  
**Subject:** [External] Nittany Mall Casino

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to [CWOPA\\_SPAM@pa.gov](mailto:CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov).

I am writing in opposition to licensing this Casino in the Nittany Mall , College Township , Centre County , PA. A casino in this area will not be a net benefit for area employment or tourism. Rather it will be a drain on the life style of the local workforce and a negative influence on Penn State University faculty and students. I see a high risk of poverty to those who become addicted to gambling because of the casino's presence. There are better alternatives for the use of this mall property which will enhance and benefit our community.

Garen Smith  
Bellefonte, PA 16823

**Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)**

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**From:** Jenny Summers <jenny@scprc.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2021 2:33 PM  
**To:** GB, Board Clerk  
**Subject:** [External] Nittany Mall Casino

***ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA\_SPAM@pa.gov.*

Hello,

I do not want a casino in my community. I am concerned about what this would do to the infrastructure of our town and how it would feed into already existing concerns.

Thank you,



**Jenny M. Summers**

**Executive Director, CPT**



Pregnancy Resource Clinic

423 S. Pugh Street

State College, PA 16801

**Office: 814-234-7341**

**Helpline: 814-234-7340**

**Cell: 814-933-8696**

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## Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

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**From:** Phyllis Gardener <ptgard62@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 24, 2021 12:44 PM  
**To:** GB, Board Clerk  
**Subject:** [External] No Casino in State College

**ATTENTION:** *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA\_SPAM@pa.gov.*

There is no good reason to have a casino in State College, PA. Many gamblers come from an economically disadvantaged population who cannot afford to gamble but do so, unaware that the machines are fixed so the casino will make money and they will make only enough to keep luring them in. Second, many gamblers become addicted, a tragedy for them and their families. Third, a casino has never improved its surrounding community. A casino is a moral sinkhole, and often crime increases around it. This community is a university town that does not need to tempt its students to gamble. The amount of money paid to its employees is negligible in comparison to the harm it does.

NO CASINO in State College. No Flashing Lights. Think of the present and the future. We need to put our money into carbon-neutral industry, business, homes, and transportation. We need to put our efforts into getting unemployed people the education they need to earn a living wage. We need to invest in higher education for all and for improving our public schools. NOT a casino in State College.

Phyllis Gardener  
[ptgard62@gmail.com](mailto:ptgard62@gmail.com)

## Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

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**From:** Nancy Cord-Baran <ncb612@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 3:37 PM  
**To:** GB, Board Clerk  
**Subject:** [External] Casino in State College

**ATTENTION:** *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA\_SPAM@pa.gov.*

To the Pa Gaming Control Board,  
I am strongly opposed to opening a casino in State College.  
People will suffer, spending money they don't have to spare.  
Gambling addiction ruins lives. Casinos are a powerful lure.  
In every town they have been built, personal bankruptcies have increased.  
Please do not approve.  
Thanks,  
Nancy Cord-Baran

**Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)**

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**From:** David Bourne <dabourne89@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 26, 2021 8:20 AM  
**To:** GB, Board Clerk  
**Subject:** [External] Casino - State College PA

***ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to [CWOPA\\_SPAM@pa.gov](mailto:CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov).*

To whom it may concern,

I would ask that you not approve the casino proposal for State College, PA. I believe that this will have detrimental effects on the community that will last for generations to come. I know that there are estimates for jobs that will be created, additional restaurants, etc., however, with those additional items comes the great potential for families' lives to be altered for generations. Some, up until this point, have not had the access to gambling, but now it will be at their fingertips and would lead to lowered income for their kids, fewer opportunities for activity and development, etc. I know that not everyone would lose each time, but as everyone knows, the house always wins... Which means the rest of us lose. It would also alter the atmosphere of State College in a way that invites increases in crime, drugs, and alcohol excess. This would lead to more DUI's, drug crime, etc. that the community has not had to deal with in the past, and don't have a desire to deal with going forward. I know that there wouldn't be a large increase in crime and DUI's immediately, but over the next 10 years, it would certainly raise its ugly head.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

David Bourne,  
Resident of State College

## Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

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**From:** GB, Board Clerk  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 26, 2021 9:40 AM  
**To:** Lloyd, Linda (PGCB); Wanich, Lyndsey (PGCB)  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Nittany Casino: Opposed  
**Attachments:** [External] Nittany Casino: Opposed

## Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

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**From:** Marcella Smith <marcelladsmith@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 26, 2021 10:24 AM  
**To:** GB, Board Clerk  
**Subject:** [External] Casino Plans

**ATTENTION:** *This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA\_SPAM@pa.gov.*

Please vote yes for the proposed casino. As a long term resident of State College and one who lives close to the mall I am totally in favor of the casino. The mall is in desperate need of a revitalization and the town needs other venues besides sports for entertainment. It will be wonderful to have something for adults that is year round and having looked at the proposed plans online will beautify a dismal parking lot. There seems to be a lot of chatter about devaluing the neighborhood, but I have not seen any of that where similar casinos have been built. The commentary that a high end casino is worse then numerous discount stores and/or Dollar stores is a sad commentary on the current mindset of the area. Please give approval to the plans.

Marcella Smith

## Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

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**From:** Yasemin Alptekinoglu <yaseminalptekinoglu@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 26, 2021 11:40 AM  
**To:** GB, Board Clerk  
**Subject:** [External] Nittany Mall Casino

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA\_SPAM@pa.gov.

To whom it may concern,

I have been a resident of College Township since 2013 for eight years. I love State College because it is a safe and quiet town suitable for families with kids. I am greatly opposed to opening a casino in the Nittany Mall. We would like our kids to stay away from gambling, alcohol and wasting their time playing games. We would like them to focus on academics, athletics and community service. We would like them to be productive members of the society. A casino in town would be a great distraction and disadvantage for our youth. Also it would cause family relationship problems because it would make gambling addiction more accessible for adults in the region.

We need to revive Nittany Mall but in a positive way suitable for families. I would suggest putting a soft play area inside the mall where families with kids can gather and increasing the variety of food and store options. I have lived in California, Texas and Florida before and all the malls I have been to had kid play areas where families would spend time with their kids after shopping and eating at the mall. State College needs more places for kids. Fun Unleashed (indoor maze/ party area) and Penn Skates (indoor roller skating) have both been closed recently so we need similar places. These can be added to the mall. So I urge you to find solutions to the mall that would attract families. I strongly advise not to ruin our precious and lovely town before it is too late. Let's save our town so that it stays as Happy Valley.

Thanks,  
Jasmine Alptekinoglu

Sent from my iPhone

**Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)**

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**From:** MICHAEL SUNDERLAND <mhasunder@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 26, 2021 9:16 PM  
**To:** GB, Board Clerk  
**Subject:** [External] Oppose State College Casino

***ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to [CWOPA\\_SPAM@pa.gov](mailto:CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov).*

As long-time members of the State College community and nearby residents of the Nittany Mall, we are writing to let you know that we adamantly oppose the construction of a casino at the Nittany Mall location. We believe that one of the main purposes of business is to allow a community to flourish. The casino industry preys on lower income individuals and families and promotes addictions that are harmful to families and society as a whole.

We have been active in the community for well over a decade with a budget counseling ministry. We have seen, first-hand, the effects of gambling addictions, college students who are already deeply in debt, and low-to-middle income residents who are barely making ends meet. Introducing a casino into the area with a "get rich quick" mentality will only exacerbate these issues. We are certain that community leaders can find a way to attract more family-friendly and responsible businesses to the area. A casino is not the answer.

Sincerely,  
Mike and Hillary Sunderland  
Lemont, PA

**Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)**

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**From:** Rhys John <johnr@dm.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 26, 2021 11:28 AM  
**To:** GB, Board Clerk  
**Subject:** [External] Nittany Mall Casino

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Hi,

I am a leader and representative for Grace Fellowship Church in State College, PA.

We oppose the approval for a casino at the Nittany Mall.

We are concerned with our community and college students getting addicted to gambling and using up more social services time and energy, and more importantly, hurting lives. We all know that the casino always wins in the end and that gambling is highly addictive (ex endorphins). We do NOT want to see the approval of this casino moving forward.

Thank you for reading.

Rhys John



## Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

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**From:** Lauchle, Esther <ees1@psu.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021 9:57 AM  
**To:** GB, Board Clerk  
**Subject:** [External] Proposed casino at the Nittany Mall, State College, PA

***ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA\_SPAM@pa.gov.*

To Whom It May Concern,

This is in response to the proposed casino at the Nittany Mall in State College, PA. I am strongly opposed to bringing in a casino into our area. Having a casino in our area would not serve the community in a positive way. The developers state it would provide jobs and create a sizable tax advantage. The few jobs it would create is minimal and the owners of the casino would get income prior to any taxes generated. Who would come from out of town to the mall to just gamble??? Rather I can see low income people who should be purchasing food across the street from Walmart spending what money they have to play the slot machines. I think the casino would bring in more drug traffic and crime into the area. I could go on about the disadvantages of this casino. Other townships have listened and shot down having a casino. So please listen to the public and deny a license.

Esther E. Lauchle

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