

---

---

# *Public Hearing*

before

## SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, WAGERING, TOURISM AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

*“The Committee will receive testimony on how to strengthen the State’s  
historic preservation efforts, and how to prepare  
for the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution”*

---

---

**LOCATION:** Old Barracks Museum  
Trenton, New Jersey

**DATE:** July 26, 2018  
10:00 a.m.

### **MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE PRESENT:**

Senator James Beach, Chair  
Senator Shirley K. Turner, Vice Chair  
Senator Chris A. Brown  
Senator Samuel D. Thompson



### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Raysa Martinez Kruger  
*Office of Legislative Services  
Committee Aide*

Louis Couture  
*Senate Majority  
Committee Aide*

Theodore Conrad  
*Senate Republican  
Committee Aide*

*Hearing Recorded and Transcribed by  
The Office of Legislative Services, Public Information Office,  
Hearing Unit, State House Annex, PO 068, Trenton, New Jersey*

---

---



JAMES BEACH  
*Chairman*

SHIRLEY K. TURNER  
*Vice-Chair*

NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ  
CHRIS A. BROWN  
SAMUEL THOMPSON

RAYSA MARTINEZ KRUGER  
*Office of Legislative Services  
Committee Aide*  
(609) 847-3890  
(609) 777-2998 fax

**New Jersey State Legislature**  
**SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, WAGERING,  
TOURISM AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**  
STATE HOUSE ANNEX  
PO BOX 068  
TRENTON NJ 08625-0068

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

**The Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation Committee will hold a public hearing on Thursday, July 26, 2018 at 10:00 AM in Old Barracks Museum, 101 Barrack Street, 2nd Floor, Trenton, New Jersey.**

**The committee will receive testimony on how to strengthen the State's historic preservation efforts, and how to prepare for the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution.**

Those individuals presenting written testimony are asked to provide 10 copies to the committee aide at the meeting.

*The public may address comments and questions to Raysa Martinez Kruger, Committee Aide, or make bill status and scheduling inquiries to Kristi L. Cannella, Secretary, at (609)847-3890, fax (609)777-2998, or e-mail: OLSAideSSG@njleg.org. Written and electronic comments, questions and testimony submitted to the committee by the public, as well as recordings and transcripts, if any, of oral testimony, are government records and will be available to the public upon request.*

Issued 7/17/18

For reasonable accommodation of a disability call the telephone number or fax number above, or for persons with hearing loss dial 711 for NJ Relay. The provision of assistive listening devices requires 24 hours' notice. CART or sign language interpretation requires 5 days' notice.

For changes in schedule due to snow or other emergencies, see website <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us> or call 800-792-8630 (toll-free in NJ) or 609-847-3905.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Richard Patterson Executive Director Old Barracks Museum	1
Dorothy P. Guzzo Executive Director New Jersey Historic Trust Department of Community Affairs State of New Jersey	2
W. Reed Gusciora, Esq. Mayor City of Trenton	8
Craig Dorsett Senior Policy Advisor Office of the Assistant Commissioner Natural and Historic Resources Department of Environmental Protection State of New Jersey	13
Maxine N. Lurie, Ph.D. Chair New Jersey Historical Commission Department of State State of New Jersey	17
Patrick Murray Former Chair Crossroads of the American Revolution Association, Inc.	22
Janice Selinger Executive Director Crossroads of the American Revolution Association, Inc.	30

## TABLE OF CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Page</u>
Algernon Ward, Jr. President 6th Regiment United States Colored Troop Reenactors, and Member 1st Rhode Island Reenactors, Inc.	36
Donald F. Weinbaum Private Citizen	44
<b>APPENDIX:</b>	
Testimony, plus attachments submitted by Dorothy P. Guzzo	1x
Testimony submitted by Craig Dorsett	42x
Testimony submitted by Maxine N. Lurie, Ph.D.	45x
Testimony submitted by Patrick Murray	47x
Testimony, plus attachment submitted by Janice Selinger	50x
Testimony submitted by Donald F. Weinbaum	59x
pnf: 1-60	

**SENATOR JAMES BEACH (Chair):** I'd like to call the meeting to order.

I would ask if we could please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rich, would you lead us, please? (all recite Pledge)

**SENATOR BEACH:** All right; now, we have to--

**R I C H A R D P A T T E R S O N:** Senator Beach, if I could just welcome the members of the Committee to the Old Barracks Museum -- I'm glad you were able to find it (laughter) -- and to all the folks from the public who want to testify today.

This is something near and dear to our hearts, this subject; and I always refer to the gaming -- although we'd like to have a casino here. (laughter) -- I guess if we had lost the French and Indian War, we would have a better chance. But anyway-- (laughter)

But I'd just like to welcome everybody to the Old Barracks Museum. This is the second time that we've hosted this Committee; and we look forward to offering our facilities in the future for anything like this. And I hope this is a very productive meeting.

**SENATOR BEACH:** Thank you, Mr. Patterson; and thank you for hosting us today.

Oh, we have to do roll call. It's a pretty long roll call here, but we have to do it, right? (laughter)

**MS. KRUGER (Committee Aide):** Senator Brown.

**SENATOR BROWN:** Here.

**MS. KRUGER:** And Senator Beach.

**SENATOR BEACH:** Here. (laughter)

Good thing we're only taking testimony, because we wouldn't have a quorum.

Before we begin, I just want to thank Louie; because this is his last meeting working with State Government. He's actually going on to bigger and better things, and I just wanted to thank him for all his dedication and hard work toward our Committee.

Louie, thanks; you've been great. (applause)

MR. COUTURE (Committee Staff): Thank you.

SENATOR BEACH: And I guess we'll just begin with testimony.

And the first person to testify is Dorothy Guzzo. And as you are coming up, I would ask each person, when you testify, please state your name and who you're representing, for the record.

Thank you.

**DOROTHY P. GUZZO:** Okay; thank you.

Good morning.

My name is Dorothy Guzzo; I am the Executive Director for the New Jersey Historic Trust.

I want to thank you for inviting me here this morning to speak on behalf of historic preservation.

And by way of background, I have been with the Historic Trust for 10 years. Prior to this I was, 20 years, at the Department of Environment Protection, 13 of which I was serving as the Administrator of the Historic Preservation Office.

As you know the Historic Trust is the agency funding the bricks and mortar capital projects for New Jersey's historic sites. And our funding

is provided through the Corporate Business Tax dedication, as part of the Open Space, Farmland, and Historic Preservation Preserve New Jersey program. We are the primary funders of bricks and mortar preservation in the state. And to my knowledge, there are no other private foundations or corporate funds that are solely dedicated to funding capital development for historic sites in New Jersey.

In preparing for the Preserve New Jersey ballot referendum, the Trust completed a capital needs survey, in 2012, identifying over \$751 million in capital preservation needs for the State. I believe this number was a very conservative estimate; and as there has been very limited funding since, continues to be relevant to the discussion today.

This estimate included numerous historic sites that help to tell the story of New Jersey's role in the Revolution, as well as many of the other important historic sites in New Jersey.

And just for context, in 1990, a comprehensive capital needs survey was done, prior to awarding the very first preservation grant round. And at that time, it identified \$400 million in capital needs.

As part of our 2012 survey, we also asked if monies were needed to help make their sites more visitor-ready. And since the Trust program typically did not pay for parking lots, pathways, signage, lighting, auditoriums, gift shops, cafes, and the types of amenities that visitors demand when they travel out of state, we wanted to know what historic sites felt was needed to enrich the visitor experience. That estimate was \$3 million; and I suspect that is very, very low estimate because, at the time of the survey, sites had not prepared formal estimates.

I've distributed a copy of the Executive Summary of the capital needs survey for you as part of your packet. And the full study is linked to our website, and I think Raysa has a copy of the full study as well.

In 2010, the Heritage Tourism Task Force completed its study, and identified several goals and strategies toward making New Jersey a heritage tourism destination. As part of that initiative, we also surveyed sites to determine visitor readiness, and found that just a very small percentage met all of the visitor-ready criteria, which weren't a lot. You had to be open regularly with scheduled hours, you had to actively be promoted as a tourism attraction, and you had to support one or more of the six statewide heritage tourism themes or provide programming related to the theme.

At that time, we also found that there was a great need for financial assistance and guidance in fostering heritage tourism. Neither the State's Tourism Office nor the Division of Parks and Forestry had a staff member solely dedicated to promoting heritage tourism. From the proceeds of the Discover New Jersey History license plate, the Historic Trust offers very modest grants to foster heritage tourism development. And the Task Force's plan was released in 2010, in the midst of New Jersey's recession; thus it was difficult to fully implement.

To understand what the State could be gaining by fostering heritage tourism and promoting its incredible history, the Trust hired Tourism Economics to calculate the economic impact of heritage tourism in New Jersey. In 2013, we found that heritage tourism accounts for 8 percent of all New Jersey tourism, and that's without much State investment, little or no marketing, and it was measured as we were coming out of a recession.

Since it was the first time ever measured, I suspect that percentage might even be higher now.

The study also calculated that heritage tourism generated \$335 million in State and local taxes. We hosted about 11 million visitors in just one year, and we supported 27,000 volunteer and full-time positions. And many of these heritage tourism sites are the same sites soliciting grants from the Historic Trust.

Measuring the economic impact of heritage tourism as a routine component of the tourism analysis that is performed each year would be extremely beneficial. It should be measured more consistently, and more routinely by experts and by the entity that knows most about it.

So we've been collecting data for some time to identify the needs and to justify an allocation of additional resources; but perhaps, more importantly, to demonstrate the great potential that's just hovering beneath the surface. Both the Task Force report and the Economic Impact Study are linked on our website, and anybody can take a look at those.

So through the corporate business tax dedication, the Trust is now receiving approximately \$3 million per year for planning, construction, and heritage tourism initiatives. From 1990 to 2012, the Trust was averaging about \$6 million per year. As you may start to understand, although the State's needs have doubled since 1990, and there's been no accounting for inflation over time, our allocation has been cut in half. So not only has the amounts of the grants been reduced, the number of grants awarded is also substantially less. If the goal is to realize a lasting contribution from the anniversary celebration, it would be difficult to do under the current circumstances and the current funding levels.

The Historic Trust, an in-but-not-of State agency, is governed by a non-paid Board of Trustees, appointed by the Governor with Senate confirmation. Last year, the Board underwent a strategic planning exercise to identify short-term goals for the next three to five years. The Board identified \$10 million per year as the optimal funding level to support the needs of the preservation community.

Ten million dollars might seem excessive; however, when the implementing legislation for the corporate business tax dedication was passed, it also enabled the Trust to expand its program and have the ability to purchase easements on historic property as a means of protection. This is a good tool, and has been effectively used by the environment community to leverage a great deal of preservation by reaching the private sector, which has little preservation funds available.

I believe the historic preservation community would also see similar benefits; however, given our reduction in funding, we find it difficult to allocate our scarce resources to purchasing easements. When we must choose between repairing a leaky roof or investing in a long-term preservation strategy, the roof must win out.

With each grant round, the Trust routinely receives requests for two to three times the amount of available funding.

Additionally, we were enabled to establish an emergency fund to intervene at critical junctures, such as weather-related episodes or in response to a development threat. Again, a laudable goal; but difficult to set aside emergency resources with the limited existing funds.

Preserving the tangible remains of our past is equivalent to making an investment in a community's intangible quality of life. Investment in historic site development creates jobs for skilled labor and resurrects construction trades that could easily be forgotten. Since 1990, the Historic Trust has helped to restore and enrich over 400 historic sites in every corner of New Jersey. We've witnessed some miracle saves; and have been fortunate to work with dozens of very dedicated staff and volunteers, who work very diligently to create an authentic learning experience for visitors. We know from our tourism partners that there is a huge return on investment from marketing and promotion. And we know that our capital grants leverage just as much, if not more, in private philanthropy. In short, an investment in New Jersey's history is a good business opportunity.

Thank you for this opportunity to share some critical aspects of the work we do at the Trust to preserve the tangible remains of New Jersey history.

And I'd be happy to answer any questions, but I am keeping it short for now.

Thank you.

SENATOR BEACH: Okay.

Dorothy, if you could just wait one second.

MS. GUZZO: Okay.

SENATOR BEACH: I'd like the record to reflect that Senator Thompson and Senator Turner are here.

And also, we're pleased to welcome Trenton's new Mayor. And thank you for coming, Mayor.

At this point, any questions for Dorothy? (no response)

MS. GUZZO: I can escape.

SENATOR BEACH: Seeing none, Dorothy, thank you so much for your testimony.

MS. GUZZO: Thank you very much for having me.

SENATOR BEACH: We very much appreciate it.

Mayor, would you like to say a few words, please?

**MAYOR W. REED GUSCIORA, Esq.:** Thank you, Senator Beach, and members of this distinguished Committee.

And welcome to the historic colonial capital of Trenton.

History is so important to the Capital City. We virtually have had most presidents come through here; from George Washington right up to -- Donald Trump used to hang out at the old Pete Lorenzo's café.

Part of our economic vitality includes the historical aspect. If we can get more visitors into the Capital City, in conjunction with our history, it would be a better economic revitalization of our city. Not too far from here we have the historic Eagle Tavern that dated back to 1765. We'd like to get that reopened.

One of the bills that I would like you to put on your radar screen is the Historic Reinvestment Property Act, where the State would invest in the rehabilitation of historic properties by giving tax credits for people who restore the exterior of their houses. This would go a long way in urban revitalization. We have so many old historic homes, particularly in our urban areas that, if they are revitalized, will help in their economic vitality.

We have many historic graves in not only the Capital City, but in the region; signers of the Declaration of Independence and the

Constitution. We need funding to restore those graves and to encourage visitors to come to see our historic spots.

This city -- not too far here, in Mill Hill Park, was where the Second Battle of Trenton took place. We've had two Battles of Trenton here. And along the Assunpink River -- if you'll notice, by the Department of Community Affairs, we're actually uncovering much of the Assunpink River so that it would go back to colonial times in Trenton. And if we can get that revitalized, we can have a historic pathway. What we would like to do is create fires along the Assunpink, much like George Washington did. It would mimic what they do up in Providence, Rhode Island -- their WaterFire. We'd like to have a WaterFire here in Trenton.

So history plays a really integral part of our revitalization. I would love to see more grant funding. Dorothy's done a great job preserving history throughout this state, but I think we really need some help from the Legislature to invest in our State.

Governor Byrne used to say we did all the fighting here, and they just merely did the paperwork in Philadelphia. (laughter) We should be promoting our historic battlefields and the historic places in this state, and it will go a long way to attracting visitors from outside the state for many years to come.

So I really am hopeful that you're having this productive hearing, and I don't think we can talk about history too much.

But I want to thank my colleague, Senator Turner, who has been a partner throughout our years in the Legislature, who also equally shares in the history of our state and our region.

SENATOR BEACH: Thank you, Mayor.

Any questions?

Go ahead, Senator Turner.

**SENATOR SHIRLEY K. TURNER (Vice Chair):** Thank you, Chairman Beach; and thank you, for shining the light on these gems that we have located in the Garden State and, particularly, in our Capital City.

Mayor, I thank you for coming here today and pointing out these historic figures here in the Capital City. And as you indicated, there are a number of things that we can do, along with our new Governor. I think it's wonderful that we have a new Governor and a new Mayor. And our Chairman realizes the value of the Capital City and its historic sites, and also the value of bringing in more tourism.

Because New Jersey should not be taking a backseat to any state when it comes to history. We are steeped in history here in the capital, as well as in New Jersey. And we should capitalize on it because it has so many economic benefits, as well as historical benefits. And we should share them, not just with the City of Trenton or the State of New Jersey, but with the world.

And you mentioned one of the bills that I have introduced, time and time again; and I'm sure, as you mentioned, it's the Historic Preservation Bill for rehabilitating historical homes and buildings so that we can not only preserve our history, but also provide economic benefits to the City of Trenton.

And there was another bill that we were co-sponsors of -- you in the Assembly and me in the Senate -- the Eagle Tavern bill, where we can

bring that building back to life and provide economic benefits, as well as historical benefits.

So thank you for being here today. And I know that we're committed -- the Legislature, as well as the Governor -- and I know you are, because you are a history buff, even though you're an attorney. (laughter) But I think we're going to do some wonderful things this year.

MAYOR GUSCIORA: One thing I'll also ask you to put on your radar screen -- we used to have Stacy Park, the lawn from the State House to the river. And originally, Governor Corzine committed funding to restore that park and have a promenade so that visitors could enjoy the State House.

That money seems to have been drained away; and after they finish the Executive Wing, we'd really like to take that opportunity -- when they uncover that parking lot again -- to bring it back to Stacy Park.

So if you could keep that in mind in your funding, that would be great as well.

SENATOR BEACH: Mayor, thank you so much for being here.

I would ask most-- As I travel around major cities -- which you are now the Mayor of -- there's always Gray Line Tours. Have you spoken to anyone; because that's a tremendous way to attract tourism to your town. Any plans?

MAYOR GUSCIORA: There's probably 50 sites around this region -- up into Lawrence, and into Princeton where the Battle of Princeton occurred -- and we are working on that to have periodic historical tours so that someone could come and see the sites.

Colonel Rall, who was the Commander -- the Hessian Commander of this fortress, is buried in the First Presbyterian Church. And unfortunately, scappers stole his plaque; but a couple of years ago we got some charitable giving to restore that plaque. But there are many people who are buried right here; we have signers of the Constitution and the Declaration. And it's great to have those periodic tours. General McClellan is buried here, from the Civil War. So there are many stops that you could have and take advantage of periodic tours of the city.

SENATOR BEACH: Right.

No, I think it's great; and I think that we can't afford to keep it a secret. So whatever, obviously, we can do to help you promote the City of Trenton -- I think we're all on board.

And again, thank you so much for coming.

MAYOR GUSCIORA: Thanks so much, Senator.

SENATOR BEACH: Any other questions? (no response)  
Thanks, Mayor.

MAYOR GUSCIORA: And any of this applies equally to our Districts. I know there was an important battle in Monmouth County; and Atlantic City has their historic sites as well.

So all of this is not just Trenton-centric, but is for the whole state to enjoy.

SENATOR BEACH: Great; thanks, Mayor.

MAYOR GUSCIORA: Thank you, thank you.

SENATOR BEACH: Thanks for taking the time.

Next to testify is Craig Dorsett.

Craig, you didn't play -- you weren't a running back for Dallas, were you, a few years ago? (laughter)

**CRAIG DORSETT:** A relative of mine. (laughter)

SENATOR BEACH: Okay.

MR. DORSETT: So Craig Dorsett, Department of Environment Protection.

Good morning.

Thank you, Senator Beach and the members of the Committee, for the opportunity to join you this morning.

As I said, my name is Craig Dorsett, and I am here today on behalf of the Department of Environmental Protection. Our Administrator for the Office of Historic Preservation, Kate Marcopul, was originally invited to speak, but she's, unfortunately, away this week. She sends her regrets that she couldn't be here in person.

In my role at the DEP, I work for our Assistant Commissioner for Natural and Historic Resources, which oversees the Division of Parks and Forestry and the Office of Historic Preservation, two divisions which will be fully engaged in the topic before us today.

The Natural and Historic Resources program area within DEP is responsible for administering much of the State's conservation, stewardship, and historic preservation portfolio, including management of State parks, forests, historic sites, and fish and wildlife resources. The Green Acres and Historic Preservation programs are also housed within Natural and Historic Resources.

The mission of the Historic Preservation Office is to assist in identifying, preserving, protecting, and sustaining New Jersey's historic and

archaeological resources through the implementation of the State's Historic Preservation Program. The office provides outreach and assistance through conferences, workshops, publications, and consultations in order to achieve these goals.

As you know, New Jersey's historic resources are the physical embodiment of the State's rich history. And in strengthening our efforts to preserve these historic resources, we can also prepare for the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

Without question, the Administration is excited to showcase New Jersey's critical role in the American Revolution, and is looking forward to the opportunity to play a leading part in the Semiquincentennial.

Celebrating these important resources is what our employees have the privilege of doing, each and every day. Our dedicated staff and volunteers help preserve and interpret so many special places across our state, from right here in Trenton, to Princeton and Monmouth Battlefields, and so much more.

We take tremendous pride in our role helping to educate the public, especially our young people, about the resources and stories that comprise these sites.

We also recognize the important role that these places play in supporting our tourism economy. As Dorothy was mentioning, a 2013 study on the economic impacts of heritage tourism in New Jersey found that heritage tourism was New Jersey's third largest industry, generating 11 million visits in 2012, and resulting in \$2.8 billion in visitor spending. So

this reinforces the shared interest that we all have in preparing the State and our resources to capitalize on the upcoming anniversary.

So in closing, the DEP looks forward to working with the Legislature, with our advisory councils, and with the public on efforts and initiatives to ensure that we have a vibrant, historic preservation program to prepare for and celebrate the Semiquincentennial and beyond.

Thank you.

SENATOR BEACH: Thank you.

Any questions?

I have a question.

As far your budget -- not the total budget at DEP, but your-- How much do you dedicate toward that particular division of Historic Preservation?

MR. DORSETT: I mean, I don't have that at my fingertips, Senator, but I would be happy to go back with our staff and make sure we have that more readily available.

SENATOR BEACH: If you could. I would appreciate it if you could get that info to me.

MR. DORSETT: Sure.

SENATOR BEACH: And maybe, also, what your focus -- I know you had several focuses of what you are trying to accomplish with that. But it would probably be good for us to know what your priorities are, how much you have; and it would probably also be helpful to get input from the community on what you're doing with your resources.

MR. DORSETT: So you are looking for the funding as it is right now; or do you want any perspective over time?

SENATOR BEACH: Well, I think if we just deal with now -- kind of, how much do you have, what are you doing with it, and maybe we can maximize it somehow and do a better job.

And I would appreciate it if you could get back to me with that.

MR. DORSETT: Absolutely.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR BEACH: Yes, sir.

SENATOR THOMPSON: I arrived late, so I may have missed this.

What is the targeted date for the celebration?

MR. DORSETT: I believe the Federal-- There is a Federal Commission that's been set up for the Semiquincentennial.

SENATOR BEACH: Yes.

MR. DORSETT: And they are targeting July 4--

SENATOR THOMPSON: Of what year?

MR. DORSETT: --2026.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Oh, 2026; okay.

MR. DORSETT: Yes.

SENATOR BEACH: Yes, we'll still be around, Senator.  
(laughter)

Thank you.

SENATOR THOMPSON: I just wasn't sure, again, what year we were talking about here.

SENATOR BEACH: All right; any other questions? (no response)

Thank you, Mr. Dorsett. We appreciate it.

MR. DORSETT: Thank you.

SENATOR BEACH: And I will be anxious to hear from you.

MR. DORSETT: Sure.

SENATOR BEACH: Next to testify, Maxine Lurie.

**MAXINE N. LURIE, Ph.D.:** Good morning.

SENATOR BEACH: Good morning.

DR. LURIE: I am Maxine Lurie, Chair of the New Jersey Historical Commission; and Professor Emerita at Seton Hall University.

Supposedly retired, I teach one course a year; and this fall it will be New Jersey History. And I am working on a book about those in New Jersey who were, from 1776 to 1783, caught in the middle of a nasty civil war.

I've have been a historian for 50 years; actually as long as the Historical Commission has existed. Not surprisingly I think history is important. A democracy needs educated citizens, something Thomas Jefferson pointed out when working to help create the University of Virginia.

State history is important because, among other reasons, it helps give residents, young and old, born here and immigrants, a sense of place and belonging; an understanding of the past that is literally in their backyards.

Hopefully, by emphasizing it we can also bring in tourists; and with them, jobs and revenue.

The American Revolution is really an important part of New Jersey history because, for most of the War, New York City was the British headquarters, and Philadelphia was the Patriot capitol.

New Jersey was the crossroads between the two, and it was also a source of grain, meat, hay, and other supplies. George Washington and the Continental Army spent more time here than anywhere else.

Now is the time, as the Legislature has wisely recognized, to start planning for the 250th anniversary. And I can't get my tongue around that other name (laughter) -- the 250th.

The New Jersey Historical Commission is the agency tasked with promoting State history, and will work with an appropriate nonprofit partner to do this. And there are a number of items that need to be addressed.

Advertising: Crossroads of the American Revolution has designed signs for places like the Old Barracks to put up, but there needs to be more. When I drive into Pennsylvania, signs say, "American History Started Here." New York is putting up lots of signs that say, "New York -- Path through History." Maybe New Jersey should have ones that say, "History is Everywhere," because it is, especially the history of the Revolution.

Second: Support for research and publication, an area that the New Jersey Historical Commission has long sustained. There are many topics left to investigate, complicated and interesting stories that should be told. This includes information on slavery, women, and how diverse ethnic and religious communities experienced the Revolution. And later I will give a brief example from my own research on some of this.

Next, development of educational materials for use by teachers, K through graduate school. This could include old fashioned pamphlets and books, videos, blogs, podcasts, digitalized materials, YouTube videos,

and other new media materials that can quickly make connections between the past and the present.

The New Jersey Historical Commission has done much of this in the past, including a series of 27 pamphlets for the 200th anniversary of the Revolution that are still used today. But there's room for much more. There's a need for updates, based on new research or new perspectives, such as noting the roles of women and blacks; including, as recent newspaper reports have noted, findings about slaves owned by the 18th century founders of Princeton, Rutgers, and other early colleges.

Also, planning events and programs at Revolutionary War sites and others places that will draw in diverse audiences in terms of age and background.

Recognizing the value of history and the humanities to teach skills that have value for all occupations; doing research, evaluating sources, analyzing the results, and writing and speaking clearly.

Possibly building a visitors' center, or several; recognizing that this small state sees divisions into North, Central, and South. When I drive up I-91 into Vermont, there is a beautiful Welcome Center with lots of information about what to see and do in the state. Information on the Revolution in New Jersey, and more, would be helpful for all visitors, and maybe also some curious residents.

Next, updating existing historic sites relating to the Revolution by doing necessary preservation work; but also by including facilities for school children, such as bathrooms and places for lunch or a snack. And the Commission does not fund bricks and mortar; that's Dorothy's bailiwick, okay?

Finally, I want to end with a story emphasizing how history, and particularly the history of the American Revolution, is relevant to the present, while also noting that we still have much to learn.

Recently, while working on manuscripts at Rutgers University's Special Collections, I looked at letters and other papers from two New Brunswick figures, Bernardus Lagrange and Abraham Beach. And I have no idea if there's a relation, okay? (laughter)

SENATOR BEACH: Uncle Abe. (laughter)

DR. LURIE: I didn't even notice this until somebody said yesterday, "Oh, do you know?" And I'm like, "I didn't even think about that."

And my daughter lives in a town in the Hudson Valley called Lagrangeville. And in that case, I'm sure there's a connection, because he came from the Albany area. But anyway, I don't know, okay? So let me tell you my story.

Lagrange was a Loyalist, so disliked and distrusted by his neighbors that they hanged him in effigy. He thought they were a dirty nest of rebels. When the War ended, he and his family, like an estimated 60,000 other Americans, became refugees. Beach was the Anglican minister, and a friend. A few days after the Declaration of Independence was read in town, Beach began to preach a Sunday service, but was stopped by a member of his Congregation who said if he continued he would be arrested, as praying for the King's health was treason.

He stopped then, and later in the War also. But when the British controlled the New Brunswick area in the spring of 1777, he conducted services in the town while living in Somerset, which is where, if

you know the area, Rutgers Prep now is. That was the family's farm, actually.

Washington's army took his livestock, and traded shots with Hessians guarding the town. When the War ended, he moved to New York City, because he had a wife and five children and no salary. There had been so much destruction that the members of his church could not pay him.

Initially I was not going to spend much time on the Loyalists in my book; but I changed my mind, because I find this fascinating, especially Beach, who (indiscernible). I was absolutely fascinated.

What I found is a story about refugees, the definition of treason, the devastation of war; they are all relevant issues for us today.

I could not have told you this story a year ago, but now I can. It illustrates how new research and information can help us think differently about the past, and that can have a lasting impact.

I hope it will also help you to think about how we can all learn while commemorating the Revolution.

Thank you.

SENATOR BEACH: Thank you, Maxine.

Any questions? (no response)

I'm not sure whose phone rang; but if you could turn them off, I would appreciate it; or put them on silence. (laughter)

Thank you.

Thanks, Maxine.

Patrick Murray, please. And Janice, do you want come up with Pat?

Thanks, guys; thanks for coming.

**PATRICK MURRAY:** Thank you.

All right; I'll start off as Janice comes to sit down.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity.

I'm Patrick Murray; I'm the former Board Chair and long-term Board Member of the Crossroads of the American Revolution Association, which is the nonprofit organization designated by Congress as the managing entity for New Jersey's only National Heritage Area.

First, I want to commend the Legislature for its farsightedness in passing A-4194, which currently awaits the Governor's signature. In particular, I want to express my gratitude to Majority Leader Weinberg and Speaker Coughlin for their determination in spearheading this effort. And I also want to thank and acknowledge Senator Bateman, a member of the New Jersey Historical Commission, for his continued support in co-sponsoring this Bill. And last, but not least, I want to thank Chairman Beach for your co-sponsorship of this Bill, and also for helping to make sure that this is expediently proceeded through the Legislature.

A-4194 establishes a planning process for the State's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Now, when cities and states host major events, such as the Olympics or the World Cup -- which, coincidentally, will be here in New Jersey in 2026 -- one question that the event sponsors have to answer is what will be the lasting legacy for the local communities that host that event. And that is something that we need to answer for the American Revolution here in New Jersey, and what's going on with this Bill.

And that's why I think the Legislature had some great foresightedness in establishing a public-private partnership to lead this planning effort. This is unique, I think, among many other states. And I would like to take a few minutes to talk about what the role of that private partner should be.

Let me start by saying I am not an expert in historic preservation or conservation; I am not a historian. Some of you may be familiar with what my area of expertise is. But one thing that I am is a huge cheerleader for New Jersey, and, in particular, its role in the American Revolution; and all those unsung incredible resources that we have in this state that we should be talking about.

And that's how I first became involved with Crossroads 10 years ago. I was asked to join the Board when it was going through its federally mandated needs assessment, which was just shortly after it was designated as a National Heritage Area. And this needs assessment was needed to establish the management plan for what this organization would do.

So I was fortunate to be involved in attending listening sessions with stakeholders from the full range of interests that are involved in this kind of effort. And while each of them made a very strong case for the concerns of their area and what was needed -- whether it was conservation or preservation, or history research, or tourism; those kinds of things -- there was one common drumbeat throughout that I heard, which was nobody was really promoting New Jersey's role in the American Revolution in a way that really elevated it to the level of importance that it deserved.

And it became clear to me, during my time at Crossroads -- including the last five as Chair -- that this was a role that we needed to play.

So we have worked to create an active nonprofit board comprised of well-connected business and community leaders from across the state, many of whom are familiar to members of this Committee. And over the past few years, Crossroads has focused its efforts mainly on improving the visitor experience by creating a vibrant brand image, and sponsoring professional development opportunities for local sites and organizations. And Janice will be talking more about that.

So I want to talk more about the role of the private partner as we go forward, as leading up to this milestone.

And while the private partner should certainly assist in the coordination and marketing of commemorative events, which many people have been talking about; and which, for New Jersey, actually commemorative events of major things that happened here in New Jersey during the American Revolution run from the tea parties of 1774, to Washington giving up his command in 1783. So you have from 2024 to 2033 as our commemorative period here in New Jersey.

If you go up to Massachusetts, you have from 2024 to 2025, and then they're done, you know? (laughter) You can leave there; there's nothing else to do. There's nothing else to talk about up there.

You come to New Jersey, we have years more of incredible commemorative events to talk about.

But what that means is that we need to create a heritage tourism infrastructure that's equal to bringing folks here and keeping them here; and that will benefit local communities for generations to come. And

by *infrastructure*, I don't just mean repairing buildings. I also mean the personnel issues, the visitor service issues that are needed.

With the assistance of initial public funding to seed this effort, the nonprofit partner should spur private investment for the resources necessary to position New Jersey as *the* place you visit when you want the full-scale American Revolution experience. This is akin to the model that Virginia actually used in the 1950s leading up to the Centenary of the Civil War. And nowadays folks know that if you want the Civil War experience, you go to Virginia, and you get it across the entire state.

We can build that same type of vision here in New Jersey for the American Revolution.

The private partner should create a cohesive brand strategy for the American Revolution, assess the strengths and weaknesses of the current visitor experience, create itineraries that link multiple sites and communities, and spearhead the creation of a visitor center entry point or entry points.

And let me give you a few examples of how this vision may play out.

Now, imagine a branded, week-long tour that you can either guide yourself or take on a bus. And let's build it around the Battle of Monmouth. Now, you can start your tour at the Delaware River in Camden, and follow the British troops as they moved through -- up the Kings Highway, to Haddonfield. You stop off at the Indian King Tavern there, and you continue through the river towns -- the wonderful river towns in Burlington County, as you head towards the Battlefield.

Or you can follow the Continental line as they cross in Lambertville and make your way across the middle of the state. Maybe stop off at a winery along the way; do some agritourism and hit the Battlefield. And then visit the Battlefield and all the incredible sites around the Battlefield as well, such as the Old Tennent Church, the Englishtown Inn, for example; and then continue on. If you want to follow the British, you can go up and dip your toes in the water at Sandy Hook, as they were trying to evacuate out to New York City. Or you can follow the Americans; a great story, as they ended up camping on the Raritan River. You can visit Piscataway and New Brunswick; this is where the first -- George Washington ordered the first official commemoration of the Fourth of July. That was in 1778, after the successful Battle of Monmouth, where there was -- he lined up the troops along the Raritan River and shot off other guns in celebration. And this is the first known official commemoration of the Fourth of July as the birth of our country.

You can continue to follow Washington, in fact, up through North Jersey and stop at the Passaic Falls and have a picnic, like he did with Hamilton and Lafayette. And maybe even be as inspired as Hamilton was to create this new innovation center right there by the foot of the Great Falls in Paterson.

That's just one set of itineraries -- and I didn't even touch on everything you could do -- around one single event that happened here in New Jersey.

So we can talk about the Ten Crucial Days that involved Princeton and Trenton, of course. We can talk about, for example, a whole host of other things that happened around here in the state -- the retreat

across the Jersey in Bergen County at Fort Lee, and New Bridge Landing. Or you can take the -- we could have an annual bike ride along the Road to Monmouth along the D&R Canal in Somerset County up through Morris County to Morristown National Park and Jockey Hollow.

When this is branded, under New Jersey's Crossroads of the American Revolution umbrella, it will lend cachet to even more remote sites. So we can talk about things like Shippen Manor, or Chestnut Neck Monument, down in Atlantic County, or Hancock's Bridge. I mean, there's a whole host of things that then become elevated because of this larger brand that we've created.

Moreover, such an itinerary provides the opportunity to introduce visitors to other New Jersey's cultural offerings. And I've already mentioned agritourism, and I mentioned industry and innovation in the state. There's suffrage; there's Civil Rights it touches upon; theater, arts, recreation -- the whole host of things. These worlds can then build a larger heritage tourism economy across all communities in New Jersey.

Now, in order to make this all a reality, there must be a comprehensive planning process. And it is good that we're starting this process now so that we will have all those elements in place.

The first step for the private partner should be to utilize that public seed funding to engage consultants to undertake that wide-ranging needs assessment. And some of this work has already been done, and you've already heard about some of that work. We need to build upon it, update it. This includes staffing levels; quality of interpretive experience; visitor services available, including ADA access. The assessment should also include both short-term and long-term recommendations for how visitor

services can most effectively be enhanced. This might be adding on-site staff; it could be creating an experience through technology, such as cell phone tours or augmented reality. These are all a package that you can put together to create that full scale experience.

And furthermore, the assessment should examine the optimal siting, size, and content for a New Jersey American Revolution visitor center, including the potential for satellite centers. And rather than be designed as a standard museum, this facility should serve as a hub that encourages exploration of Rev War resources throughout the entire state, in a way that complements, rather than competes, with existing sites, including the American Revolution Center in Philadelphia. This process will also encompass necessary site planning, and architectural plans, and so forth.

So this is where the private partner's fundraising responsibility comes in. This will need a multimillion dollar capital campaign to install signage, make those infrastructure upgrades, and so forth. And this is why all those things that need to be done -- this is why the flexibility of the private partner is so important.

And to give you an example, just a few years ago when New Jersey celebrated its 350th anniversary, all the work was done through the State, through the Historic Commission and other State entities. And they wanted to create a website. Now, private funding, through the Dodge Foundation, was identified; but to get it into the State and have that process done, the website wouldn't have been created until after the 350th, right? (laughter)

And so Crossroads stepped in and volunteered to take over that task. And because we already had that standing as a nonprofit and could meet all the requirements of the Dodge Foundation, we could just take that money and then work very closely with the State, and other stakeholders, to create that website and get it up and running as quickly as possible. So these are the kinds of flexibilities that we can do; and bring in that private money that will be necessary to create these major lasting legacy issues.

Okay; so the world will be on our doorstep in 2026, quite literally. The World Cup will be here, and there certainly will be matches at MetLife Stadium; maybe even the final. That's in July of 2026 -- is when that will happen.

But even people coming into Philadelphia-- And what we know of the planning process that's going on in Philadelphia, right now, is that there will be a couple of nodes that will spill over into Camden across the river; but also another node that they are looking to create around the Washington Crossing area, where we can capture these visitors coming into Philadelphia and keep them. Get them across the river and keep them here.

SENATOR BEACH: Yes.

MR. MURRAY: So New Jersey has an unprecedented opportunity to inspire visitors with what the American Revolution means. You've heard about all the different resources that we have, and we didn't even scratch the surface.

But it's not just about the generals and the soldiers, it's about the common citizens; common citizens like the people who will be visiting here, who were caught in the crossfire of a tumultuous time. Importantly, we can spark their imagination with a visitor experience that will keep them

coming back for more, creating a lasting economic legacy for our State and local communities.

Our message will be: If you want to experience the American Revolution, you have to start at the crossroads. And there's only one place you can find that, and that's in New Jersey.

Thank you.

SENATOR BEACH: Thank you, Mr. Murray.

How about if we-- We'll wait until you finish, Janice, and then--

**JANICE SELINGER:** Sure.

SENATOR BEACH: --if you guys could stick around for questions.

MS. SELINGER: Wonderful.

MR. MURRAY: Sure.

MS. SELINGER: Well, I'm Janice Selinger. I'm the Executive Director of Crossroads.

And as Patrick said, Crossroads was established by an act of Congress back in 2006. And we're 1 of 49 National Heritage Areas across the country, but we're the only one out of that group that's exclusively focused on the American Revolution -- the landscape, and the people who lived during the War. And that's right here in New Jersey.

So we at Crossroads see the power of partnerships, like this public-private -- this partnership every day. And we're honored to lend our experience and talents to a once-in-a-generation opportunity.

What we do every day is connect and tell a revolutionary story, with the help of more than 130 allied organizations around the state. And

we refer to them as *heritage partners*. And through those partnerships, and our heritage, tourism, and communication and outreach work, we've helped build a strong awareness of New Jersey's Revolutionary heritage and have also helped drive visitorship to the sites across the state.

With this additional focus through a multimillion dollar capital campaign, a mini-grant program, site visitor readiness, and needed upgrades, New Jersey will be well prepared to take its place among the leading states telling the nation's Revolutionary story.

We have a strong foundation to build on, and we've heard a lot about this; about the communities in New Jersey that have capitalized on our local Revolutionary history. You are all aware of Patriots Week right here in the Trenton area, with the Battle reenactments, and lots of history and arts events throughout the week that celebrate, actually, the 10 days that turned the tide of the War.

New Brunswick is one of many communities that hosts readings of the Declaration of Independence, with the bonus of reenacting a small portion of the nation's first Independence Day celebration, ordered by General Washington. And that took place right on the banks of the Raritan River in 1778.

Just as important are the opportunities visitors will have to experience Revolutionary New Jersey year-round. As an example, Crossroads uses our website and social media to promote hundreds of events and open houses held by historic sites around the state, inviting visitors to discover the people who lived here and experience a little bit of 18th century life in New Jersey. It's that personal connection that makes New Jersey's Revolutionary stories so powerful. We share a lot of themes

and storylines -- 14 of them -- on our website; and you can explore that as well, if you would like to take a look.

And also, we share stories of Revolutionary neighbors who were a diverse group of more than 60 everyday 18th century New Jerseyans. And it shows something that Maxine was talking about -- that the state's population was not totally behind independence. Some of the neighbors that we profile reflect the impact of the decisions of the people of the time. Some people wanted to support, certainly, independence; some wanted to stay loyal to the Crown; and some wanted to be neutral.

This public-private partnership offers New Jersey a unique opportunity to raise awareness of its seminal role. And not only does it make sense for community pride, but it's also -- as other people have said -- a long-term investment in New Jersey's economy.

As Dorothy had mentioned, there was a needs assessment study. In 2016, Crossroads followed up with a study of New Jersey's Revolutionary heritage tourism potential. And that study determined that what was generated was \$166.6 million in economic impact, supporting 1,729 jobs, and generating over \$10.3 million in tax revenue.

With the excitement of the coming anniversary, and the support from local and State government and business communities, there's potential for so much more, providing we hit the ground running. And again, I think as everybody is saying, 2026 may seem far off, but we certainly understand that we need to start to make the most of the attention that we can get for the 250th. We expect fierce competition to get those heritage tourists' attention. And so we don't want New Jersey, certainly, to miss that; we want to be right there.

So as Patrick was talking about, we're going to have a comprehensive inventory of the state's Revolutionary-era historical sites. We're going to look for site improvements that need to be made. We're also going to talk to historic site staff -- volunteers and management -- to see what kind of visitor training might need to be done; you know, some help with some storytelling, perhaps. And the findings of this inventory will guide ongoing efforts to prepare these sites so that they can meet visitors' needs and offer a compelling experience so people are going to want to come back to New Jersey.

In addition, you know, as Patrick and others have talked about, we're going to study the need and the location for a statewide visitor center, as a gateway to encourage travelers to explore more of New Jersey; or perhaps, several sites.

The potential is huge for the Revolution to become one of New Jersey's biggest tourism draws, with a fresh, innovative message that attracts visitors of all ages. And we're excited to work with the State Division of Travel and Tourism to do just that.

Crossroads is already helping sites prepare to present more authentic representations of 18th century life. We have ongoing workshops; and we're helping publicly and privately owned sites improve their costuming, their crafts, and their trades as they do their demonstrations.

We appreciate the forward thinking of our Legislature to make sure that New Jersey has enough time and resources to address the 250th appropriately. And we look forward to finding ways to secure additional funding and needed assistance for State-run historic sites.

As you are no doubt are familiar, they are doing their best to tell New Jersey's remarkable history, despite years-long deferred maintenance needs. For example, just a short walk from here, the Trenton Battle Monument marks the start of the December 1776 battle that turned the tide of the American Revolution. However, there's a broken elevator, and it lacks modern signage that tells the story of the site.

Unfortunately, this challenge is not limited to the State Park system, or State sites. Scores of sites operated by local governments and not-for-profit groups also need improvements to welcome a new generation of visitors with high expectations. For example, the Benjamin Temple House in Ewing is among many sites that have unique stories to tell; but it lacks enough staff to welcome visitors more than a few times a month.

With the approach of the 250th anniversary, and growing public interest in our nation's founding, investing in these treasured resources will reap strong returns for the State's economy now and in the future. That said, we recognize that government can't fund it alone. New Jersey's corporate citizens have a tremendous opportunity to support our Revolutionary heritage and invest in the long-term sustainability of our historic sites, whether they're publicly owned sites or in the hands of heritage groups.

For example, some of New Jersey's corporate citizens have already joined us, sponsoring Crossroad-branded signage at Revolutionary-era sites. Marked with the six-pointed star featured in our logo, these signs will make it easier for travelers to identify sites that tell the story of the Revolution in New Jersey. You may have noticed the Crossroads star on the interpretive marker that is now outside the gates of the Old Barracks.

With the generosity of businesses and foundations, we are working to extend this branded signage statewide. And we have a brochure that we're traveling around the state, going to sites and talking to them about this kind of signage, which will make people understand the connection to the Revolution.

It's a good and necessary start; and opportunities to do more are endless. Early work will be done setting up an advisory council of corporate and community leaders to focus on fundraising, and businesses, and civic-minded individuals, and foundations to support the 250th.

A planning committee of representatives from the State's Revolutionary War historical sites, educators, tourism industry leaders, legacy groups, and others will be an essential element to work on coordinating commemorative events.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer Crossroads' perspective on the planning for New Jersey's commemoration of the nation's 250th anniversary. We look forward to working with the New Jersey Historical Commission, and all interested parties, to make the anniversary a success.

Thank you.

SENATOR BEACH: Thanks for your testimony.

Any questions? (no response)

I think that it's great you guys -- what you're doing. And we're far enough ahead of the game that maybe we can figure out how to put a gate from Philadelphia into New Jersey, and then close it. (laughter)

MR. MURRAY: One way; get in, you can't get back.

SENATOR BEACH: So if you can work on that, that would be great.

But I certainly appreciate all that you're doing; and thank you so much for your testimony.

MS. SELINGER: Thank you.

MR. MURRAY: Thank you.

SENATOR BEACH: Hey, soldier, could you identify yourself, please; and I would just like to know if you stored your musket downstairs?

ALGERNON WARD, Jr.: (off mike) No, actually I have it right here.

SENATOR BEACH: Okay; I hope it's not loaded. (laughter)

MR. WARD: My name is Algernon Ward. I'm the President of the 6th Regiment, United States Colored Troops Civil War reenactors; and 1st Rhode Island Regiment Revolutionary War reenactors.

I had hoped to be able to testify today; but of course, before I got here, my printer crapped out, so I don't have my written testimony to hand in. (laughter)

But I was hoping that I would be able to address you, when appropriate.

SENATOR BEACH: Well, it's appropriate right now; how about that?

MR. WARD: Okay. (laughter)

SENATOR BEACH: This is an unexpected pleasure, I might add.

MR. WARD: Well, that's what we do. (laughter)

SENATOR BEACH: For the record, please identify yourself.

MR. WARD: My name is Algernon Ward, Jr. I am a resident of Trenton, New Jersey, the turning place of the Revolution.

And I am a reenactor.

I am here this morning--

Hi, Senator Turner.

SENATOR TURNER: Hi there, Algernon. (laughter)

MR. WARD: --to offer my bit on this bit of important testimony.

First, I should inform you that one-fifth of the Revolutionary Army, the Colonial Army, was people of color by the end of the War. And first, our reenactment unit is the 1st Rhode Island Regiment, which was about 65 percent African American and Indian. So we represent that part of the Revolution and the story that hasn't been told.

I started out in this as some kind of hobby; but it has turned into a real passion. And being here from Trenton, the turning point of the Revolution, it could be a full-time occupation if I wanted to make it so.

We cross the Delaware with George Washington every year; we fight in the Battle of Trenton and Princeton. And I'm happy to say that because people can look in the crowd -- African Americans can look in the crowd and see me in the Army, they became curious about the role of African Americans and other minorities in the American Revolution.

Although the 1st Rhode Island didn't cross the Delaware with George Washington, at this time, the American Army was integrated. There were African Americans in almost every Continental unit.

So we're there to tell the story of African Americans in the American Revolution. And I am here today to support the efforts of Crossroads of the American Revolution; they are doing wonderful work; the Old Barracks. I also want to make a pitch to get the Monument fixed -- the

elevator -- because we have a great opportunity here which is being missed because of the lack of coordination and support.

The Battle Monument could actually be a great tourist attraction, if it functions. But the State, and the County, and the City are going back-and-forth about who's going to pay to fix the elevator; and meanwhile, time is passing.

I just want to point out, when I started reenacting in about the year 2000, we used to have what they called *Patriots Day* here in Trenton. People would come from all over to watch us do the Battle of Trenton. Nothing was open; there were no vendors; there was nothing. But we had about 2,000 people, just here to watch that Battle. And no one was selling some hot chocolate to the poor people. (laughter)

Last year we had Patriots Week; they estimated about 10,000 people came for the events of Patriots Week, because the thing has just taken off. And with just a modicum of support it's become quite an attraction. And I'm sure it could be an economic boon to this area, and other places, if we would just support it in the kind of fashion that would allow tourists to come. Our hotel is closed now, and that's a real shame. But it was full, when it was open, with people from all over the world.

By the way, we had Hessians from Hesse staying in his Old Barracks. Their ancestors had fought in this Battle, and they are buried up on East State Street. We had Canadians; we had people from all over the world coming here to the City of Trenton.

And this tells me that there is the potential for an economic benefit, if we just put the seed money in and do the proper promotion. It can be really special; not just during Patriots Week, but all year long.

So that's why the Battle Monument becomes important. People are actually coming to the place; and then they have to stand outside and look at it, and walk away, because we don't have the provisions anymore to take them to the top, as they used to.

So this is not something nice to do. I think it's important that people appreciate the sacrifices that were made here in the City of Trenton, the turning point of the Revolution. And I still think that that can happen. That's what the Trenton spirit is. When things look the darkest, this is when we dig in and fight our hardest.

So I'm here to encourage the State, your Committee, to support the Old Barracks -- places like the Old Barracks, one of the last two barracks like this on the North American continent. So we have it here in Trenton; so it's a precious resource that we have, but it needs to be supported; and the other things that the Crossroads have been doing, in particular, the Battle Monument.

And I am here today to just let you have a glimpse of what an African American soldier during the Revolution would look like; and the men who handled the boats, and the Marbleheaders -- it was about a dozen African Americans in Glover's Marbleheads; Oliver Cromwell from Bordentown. I could go on, and on, and on, but I'm not going to do that. I want to save that for the tourists.

And I want to thank you all for allowing me to make some testimony here today. And I promise I'll give you my written testimony as soon as my printer-- (laughter)

SENATOR BEACH: I want to tell you something. I think you did quite well without your printer.

MR. WARD: Thank you.

SENATOR BEACH: I appreciate it; and I appreciate you wandering in, and your input.

Any questions? (no response)

And I would say to you that Trenton is certainly moving forward with the tremendous leadership that you have, with Senator Turner and your new Mayor.

So again, thank you for coming; we appreciate it.

SENATOR TURNER: One question: Algernon, what would it cost to fix the elevator to take people up to the top?

MR. WARD: I don't know the exact figure.

SENATOR TURNER: Nobody knows?

MR. WARD: The Department of Environmental Protection has been taking the lead on it, because they've already done the asbestos remediation and the structural integrity; that's been done. But the elevator is old, and they don't have the wiring diagrams. So it's difficult to get an elevator company to fix it because they have to rewire it completely. And there have been various bids; and I'm just not privy to exactly what the cost is.

SENATOR TURNER: It shouldn't cost much to get signage, though; I mean, even the signage we need.

MR. WARD: It shouldn't. To rewire an elevator -- it's not heavy lifting, but everybody wants to pass the buck around. And it's going on three or four years since the remediation's been done. So we're just spinning our wheels, waiting on somebody to take responsibility for it.

The City of Trenton does not have the resources, I can tell you that for sure.

SENATOR TURNER: I know that.

MR. WARD: But the County of Mercer and the State -- and I think we can actually do something that would generate money for everybody. I mean--

SENATOR TURNER: But we could also have a public-private partnership. Because we did have an event a couple of months ago there at the Battle Monument--

MR. WARD: Absolutely.

SENATOR TURNER: --where New Jersey Manufacturers contributed money to help spruce up the park.

MR. WARD: That's right. The private sector has always been supportive of these things, because it looks good for them and they get their tax benefits. And it's a good public-community service project.

Yes, New Jersey Manufacturers actually did help fix the grounds of the Battle Monument. It's now been remediated; it's grown a little. It's a resource that's kind of sitting there just waiting for that last little piece of help.

And I also think that-- We'd be willing -- our reenacting group -- we'd be willing to act as interpreters for visitors who come there, and talk about the Battle of Trenton. I live within blocks of the Battle Monument; so, you know, it's something that we'd like to see finally come to fruition.

But I thank you for your support, because I see you out there at the Battles, in the snow and in the rain-- (laughter)

SENATOR TURNER: In the cold, the cold.

MR. WARD: In the cold.

SENATOR TURNER: I remember one year the reenactors -- their mustaches were icicles.

MR. WARD: Right.

SENATOR TURNER: They had icicles--

MR. WARD: Icicles; I mean, it looks real, doesn't it?  
(laughter)

SENATOR TURNER: I think it was real that day.

MR. WARD: Yes; you're absolutely right. That's what they mean by *keeping your powder dry* (laughter). In the snow and in the rain, your powder would get wet.

It's a great event; it brings people out. The shame is that we need more people from this area, because there are more visitors there than there are natives.

SENATOR TURNER: Right.

MR. WARD: I don't know why that happens, but it's something we need to work on.

SENATOR TURNER: Right.

SENATOR BEACH: Thanks again for your testimony.

Mr. Dorsett was writing down *elevator specs* as you were speaking. (laughter)

MR. WARD: Thank you.

SENATOR BEACH: And if Mr. Dorsett -- you could get back to Senator Turner with some information, I know she would appreciate it.

SENATOR TURNER: And some signage, so that people know the significance of the Battle Monument.

MR. WARD: Absolutely.

SENATOR TURNER: Because this was the turning point. If it were not for the Battle of Trenton, we'd be flying the Union Jack--

MR. WARD: Absolutely.

SENATOR TURNER: --as opposed to the beautiful red, white, and blue.

MR. WARD: Absolutely.

SENATOR BEACH: I think Janice wants to have some input.

MS. SELINGER: Yes.

SENATOR BEACH: Maybe she's an elevator expert. (laughter)

MS. SELINGER: No, no, no; not the elevator. Just for the signage; that's part of what we're working on. So we're hoping to be able to have the funding to do the signage at the Battle Monument. And I'm working on a Memorandum of Agreement with DEP--

SENATOR TURNER: Oh, good.

MS. SELINGER: --to allow us to be doing that at State-owned sites.

SENATOR TURNER: Wonderful.

MS. SELINGER: So I just wanted to let you know that that is in our plan.

SENATOR BEACH: Great; thank you.

MS. SELINGER: That's what the brochure is about -- is our signage project.

SENATOR BEACH: Great.

MS. SELINGER: So we would love to do that.

SENATOR BEACH: Thank you.

And thank you for coming; we appreciate your testimony.

MR. WARD: Thank you for having me; I appreciate it.

Thank you.

SENATOR BEACH: And our last speaker today is Donald Weinbaum.

**DONALD F. WEINBAUM:** Thank you, Chairman Beach, Vice Chair Turner, members of the Committee.

My name is Donald Weinbaum. I have a little different hat and perspective than some of the people in the room.

I'm a local historical researcher and preservation advocate from Burlington County. I don't do this professionally. This is my love; this is my passion.

I am involved with over a dozen groups around the state, including some here in Trenton, and some of the groups that are represented in the room today. And I greatly value the work that they do, the advocacy.

I am here today to let the Committee know that historic preservation and Revolutionary history matters to people in communities around the state; people who don't always have a voice, people who volunteer in small groups and Societies who, on their own, are struggling, sometimes frustrated by what's going on

I'm not going to read my remarks verbatim, because you have a copy of them. But one of my interests is Colonial history and early New Jersey history. I research it from a genealogical perspective; I'm involved with events, preservation activities, and advocating.

And a lot of the history is not well known to the average person and to government leaders, business leaders around the state. New Jersey has a rich, rich history.

When you talk about the American Revolution, people across the country do not realize how important the role was here in New Jersey, and Trenton in particular. It is so fitting that we're here today in the Old Barracks.

And I personally believe that Trenton needs to be on the map as a site for tourism, for people around the country -- the history of Trenton needs to be known. And we need to invest in our structures, infrastructure, and sharing information. And I have some thoughts to share with you. I did want to share, also, that Burlington County also played an important role in the Revolution. It's not always as well known; there are Revolutionary connections to communities around the state. And that's part of the challenge, that's part of the message that we need to get across.

Burlington City is an undiscovered jewel. We have Colonial-era buildings; we're on the waterfront; much of them have been preserved, partly because there wasn't enough interest or money in economic development, which sometimes drives the destruction of important buildings.

We have the remnants of an old barracks in Burlington; there were five or six communities-- There is part of the foundation of a Veterans of Foreign Wars hall -- is the remnants of the old Revolutionary-era barracks.

There were to be three crossings of the Delaware; one of them at what is now known as Washington's Crossing; one of them in Dunk's Ferry, down in Beverly, Burlington County.

And in fact, Mercer County, as we know it, and Trenton, as we know it, didn't quite exist in the Colonial era. Mercer County was not started until 1838; and Trenton -- much of South Trenton, Hamilton was part of Burlington County in that era.

The West Jersey Colony is an area that I research, and am involved with some of the preservation. The West Jersey Colony, before the Crown took over control of government again, was a leader in some of the freedoms that have set the tone for New Jersey. The *Concessions and Agreements* of the West Jersey Colony were one of the resources that served as a framework for the United States Constitution. It was really very, very much pioneering -- the idea of self-government, and protection, and rights for citizens.

The Council of Proprietors of West Jersey, which still exists today, is probably the oldest corporation still in existence in the United States. It was founded in 1688, and meets annually; every year.

So there is history, and there are preserved structures and resources in our County, as there are in Trenton. And Trenton is near and dear to my heart; and Mercer County -- I have many, many connections to this area as well.

But we have some challenges in historic preservation. I am going to speak generally, not just about the Revolution.

One of the challenges is remembering our history and interpreting it. I was really glad to hear the discussion about signage;

something as simple as a small sign commemorating a place. Some of the signs that were once in place were removed in highway construction projects or were stolen. If there is no sign, many, many people who live there don't know that they live in a place with history. And if we don't know that a place is historic, we're not going to try to preserve it. We're not going to care, just out of lack of knowledge.

Digitization of records. Work has started in that area; there is a lot more to be done. We're at risk of losing history due to deterioration or loss; plus digitization allows for people to take advantage of the technology that is so much a part of their lives. People search on the Internet; they don't spend as much time in libraries, and they don't spend time in historical libraries unless they're really involved in the historical field.

When we're talking about digitization, we have to think about records of local importance, as well as of statewide importance. A lot of history is local; but the people who may have come out of a particular community may have had a broader role, or may have been part of a movement that changed history and the course of the state.

Preserving historic structures and historic sites from demolition or destruction. I cannot begin to emphasize how important that is. Many of our Colonial-era buildings are disappearing, and this trend is going to continue unless we take deliberate action to preserve them. Who is the *we*? The *we* is probably all of us: the corporate community, the local community, the State, and the counties, and private citizens.

In my own area of South Jersey, a good number-- In some instances, in some towns, the majority of the buildings that were on the

Federal Historic American Buildings Survey, which was done in the 1930s and 1940s, are gone. They are demolished. The only record of them is in the Library of Congress. And that's unfortunate, because they were historic enough to record in that era.

Sometimes public ownership is a death sentence for a property. And I'm not connected with any governmental agency, so I'm just going to put it out there. We had the tragedy of the Hugg-Harrison-Glover House, with its own connection to the Revolutionary War, in Bellmawr, which in the middle of the night was demolished through some miscommunications, misunderstandings -- I don't know what happened. But it was owned by the New Jersey Department of Transportation and could have been saved; could have been moved.

We have a building in Mount Laurel Township owned by the Township, Sunnyside Farm. It's marked for demolition. People are taking up petitions, they're showing up at hearings. What's going to happen? I don't know.

Green Acres money. Green Acres money sometimes has some hidden strings that work against historic preservation. Existing structures may be historic, but not well documented. If so, they're generally demolished quickly to return the land back to open space, because Green Acres is about open space. But tied in with the history of these areas is the history of the families that lived there and the things that happened. And if a building is in good condition, and a local group wants to take it over, we really owe it to our communities and citizens to try to find a way to make that happen, instead of saying, "This is just the way it is."

Too often what we have is benign neglect of structures, and then they start to deteriorate. And past a certain point, they cost too much to preserve. So there's a trade-off: Which structure is more important? What's on the register? Our State Register, in a lot of ways, is a mirror of the National Register. Could we have a State Register that is beyond that, that has properties that are possibly of significance that are listed on the inventory but not officially on the register? Maybe.

Local historic inventories are very, very important. They are practically inaccessible. They're in libraries; they're in historical societies; they're out of print. And if nobody -- including people making decisions on zoning and development -- knows and can access these things, the history might as well not have happened. And that is very, very sad. There will be no efforts to preserve our history if people don't know about it.

I'm going to just comment that historical archaeology is important. I don't think we've discussed it here today. But if you look out the window, we have the plating mill on Petty's Run -- which was right under our feet -- and it's tied to the period of history that we're talking about. And it was very important in the history of the country. We would not have known that it was there, and what was there, and how intact it was, if we did not have the participation of historical archeologists.

There's another issue that's near and dear to my heart, which is preserving the resting places of our pioneers and patriots. Many people -- who were important to our history, involved in the Revolution, patriots, leaders of many kinds -- were buried on their own farms. There were not cemeteries -- public cemeteries; there were early church cemeteries, there were, maybe, a few private lands that were set about. But families were

buried on land that they owned, which they believed would be in the family for generations. Most of those farms have passed out of their families. So we have undocumented resting places on sites that are owned by individuals with no connection to the land. We have markers and tombstones that have disappeared. And every session -- except this one, I have to say -- there has been a Bill in the Legislature to try to establish protections for family and private burial grounds, which New Jersey lacks. Many other states have it; New Jersey lacks it. In the last session, the Bill was passed by the full Assembly; it passed this Committee in the Senate; and never went to a floor vote.

We have a parallel issue of church-owned cemeteries -- that the churches don't exist anymore. We have Friends Meeting Houses that have largely been abandoned or are used for other purposes. So there are graveyards that fall between the gaps in our laws. And that's an area that I'm going to just put out as a challenge, because in many of these graves, if you ask researchers, they can tell you who is there. Can they prove it by a marker; can they even access the land? Not necessarily, if it's owned by a private developer. I can tell you, one of the founders of the West Jersey Colony, William Biddle -- the graves of his immediate family and himself are on a piece of land slated for private development, for industrial development. The house, which was on the HABS, was demolished.

Funding for programs. Sometimes people appear before committees and say, "What we need is money." And we do need money; we have neglected resources in this area. But I want to say that even small amounts of money can be of immense importance. In Burlington County, we get \$27,030 from the County Historic Partnership Program, through the

New Jersey Historic Commission. I cannot begin to tell you how important that \$27,000 is. It brings down some matching money; but beyond that, it is a sensitizer. It keeps historic preservation on the agendas of towns, county leaders, so that there is a discussion. We have roundtables of people in my County who talk about it. There's a constant-- There's great support for this, but there is also is a great need that people are very, very frustrated with.

There are gaps in our statutes. And I hope that those in the Executive branch and the Legislative branch will look at those and try to close them.

And there is a role for nonprofits and volunteer groups. With the State-owned properties, the volunteer groups, and the nonprofits have made a big, big difference in whether a property survives or really, simply deteriorates. In recent years we've had more of those established, but it is a real challenge. There are not a lot of foundations out there that like to put money into bricks and mortar, and this is an ongoing challenge of people in communities across the state.

As I was walking out this morning, I printed out the latest newsletter from the League of Historic Societies of New Jersey. There were three Revolutionary events listed in there; none of them in Mercer or Burlington counties. So that says Revolutionary history is of interest to people around the state.

So I'd like close by saying that your support and your interest is really, really appreciated by those of us involved with the nonprofit groups around New Jersey; and we hope to see more happening. Our concern is that time is not a friend in this field. Each day we lose a little bit more

history; we certainly lose people who remember it and have tales to tell. And we lose some of the structures that are never going to come back.

So thank you very much for the opportunity to speak.

SENATOR BEACH: Thank you, Donald.

Any questions? (no response)

Thank you very much for your comments.

And to close out the meeting today -- Richard Patterson, if you would come forward please, as our host.

MR. PATTERSON: Thank you, Senator.

Senators, and members of the Committee, I don't have a prepared statement; I don't want to make this long. I know it's getting kind of steamy up here, even though our air conditioner actually, technically is working. (laughter)

SENATOR BEACH: Richard, introduce yourself, for the record.

MR. PATTERSON: I'm Richard Patterson; I'm the Executive Director of the Old Barracks Museum. I've been here since 1994, so I have been through lots of cycles of ups and down, mostly downs; it keeps winding down that way with the State support for historic preservation, for heritage tourism, and other related things that we're all about.

I'm going to try to be little different. I'm not going to advocate just for the American Revolution here, even though this is a Revolutionary War, and French and Indian War site. I just want to talk more about heritage tourism and missed opportunities, almost to the point where I think they've been deliberately missed by our State's leaders for too long.

We're talking -- I think Patrick was talking earlier, and I know Janice was talking about, like, the various trails that we're setting up for the Revolutionary War history through Crossroads, and so on, to sort of match what we often, in the business, call the *Cannonball Belt* -- that many of you are familiar with down in northern Virginia, going into Pennsylvania, and Maryland, and so on. And we have all these ones that Crossroads has been working on that are thematic trails that link up, say, the crossing in Trenton, and Princeton, and onto Morristown, and other variations on different themes.

But we also have a Women's History Trail that once was, you know, at least invested in for a few years to get markers up, and so on. And many of you may have seen that not only do we have the Crossroads marker outside -- which is brand new -- but we have a very interesting panel outside on one of our founders, Beulah Oliphant, that this is actually one of the sites on the New Jersey Women's History Trail. There's the Underground Railroad Trail; there's a whole lot of these things.

New Jersey has such a rich history, you know, that goes back 300-and-some-odd years. I mean, we're talking about losing Colonial buildings. Yes, I care about that kind of stuff. We're losing World War II buildings, you know. When we're thinking about the things that were manufactured here, the home front in World War I and World War II -- you know, all the aircraft that were built in New Jersey, including-- George H. W. Bush's Torpedo plane was made in West Trenton. And when he had to bail out of it, the parachute was also made in Trenton, etc. It just goes on and on.

What we're concerned about here, though, is the promotion of all these wonderful heritage resources that we have. I think from the history community, we're not looking to compete with the funding for promotion of the Shore. We want the Shore to thrive; it benefits everybody. But you almost have to believe that there's been a deliberate ignorance of the history resources that go along with that, for several Administrations now, that the money spent by heritage tourists-- If you go nationwide, it's right next to going to the beach, you know, from nationwide surveys. People are higher educated who do that; they spend a lot more money. When we're talking about the statistics that have been floating around today as to how many jobs it supports and how much money came in, a lot of that was talking directly from people who work in more recognizable parts of the tourism industry at, like, convention visitor bureaus, or historic sites, or museums, and other things like that.

But when you look at what the National Trust for Historic Preservations started doing in the late 1980s and through the early and mid-1990s, the studies that were nationwide, what you're talking about also is the money that is spent at the local gas stations, the restaurants, the hotels and motels, the shops -- everything that starts to go around with that, and the taxes that come in, accrued through that kind of spending. And the jobs, you know, the ripples that go out on the pond for other jobs that it supports, at least in part, and enhances. And it also becomes an anchor for our communities, and so on.

So one pet thing that's been a bugaboo of mine is that-- I've been to a number of hearings in more recent years, and there's a lot of talk where people have brought up the amount of money that heritage tourism

can create, and so on. And then when they're questioned about, "Well, why you are not putting anything into promoting that?" Then the answer usually was, "Because we don't have any money."

The idea is -- I know in my little budget, that I have to work here, I have a profit-and-loss statement that I go over every month with my Board Members, and so on; and you can figure out how much it costs to do this event, and how much revenue came in, and so on. That we're talking here an investment in heritage tourism, largely in promotion and some direct support of that, completely aside from the things that you need to improve five years, seven years down the road, and so on. We're talking about the -- when you want to go back to your constituents and want to say why you spent money on this to promote this stuff, you're getting the return on that money in the same fiscal year, for the most part; usually in spades. The money you spent promoting -- that not only when you go to Asbury Park or go to someplace on the Shore, but along the way you have this, this, this, and this, and you stay in New Jersey longer, etc. -- that money is coming right back to you, almost as soon as you can spend it. And that never seems to enter the conversation.

So it's something I'd like, you know -- without a specific bill to promote here, or other things, I'd just like to get that into the conversation. When you're talking to the other legislators, when you talk to your constituents, and so on, be thinking of how this stuff integrates with everything else.

I'm also here as a representative of-- A lot of folks, like me -- where the rubber meets the road in this business. You know, we're struggling all the time, every year, to keep places like this open. And it

seems like we have to constantly explain to folks what the value is, or what goes into this. It's not just, you open a place up, you put a neat artifact in it, etc. There's a whole lack of heritage awareness in New Jersey, and it's been like that for most of my life, with certain exceptions at different times. You know, people need to celebrate it and have a sense of place. We're trying to do that for kids here in Trenton, who we found-- In more recent years, as we have gotten further into it, many of the kids, who we have now -- you've seen some out there on the parade ground when you came in -- the last couple of years, the Summer History Day Camp that we run here is almost all on scholarships for Trenton school kids, who couldn't otherwise afford it. But we also had to realize that these kids, most of them, never got off their own block. So we're not only talking about trying to bring tourists in from the outside; we're talking about giving a sense of place, a sense of purpose, and a sense of their own heritage to kids in our cities. And then writ larger, to our own citizens; to have more pride in their state, rather than constantly fighting about, "Oh, so this city got something and we didn't get the same thing." "Can we have an aircraft carrier here? No, we have to have a battleship here." You know, little arguments inside; but we never seem to go, with a chip on our shoulder, to our neighboring states, you know, and say, "You need to come here. You're missing where everything happened." As our new Mayor pointed out -- that great bumper sticker thing from Governor Byrne, back in the Bicentennial; you know, thanking Pennsylvania for the paperwork, while New Jersey did all the fighting.

Well, that's the thing; we're doing all that fighting again. But where we've tried to get assistance, our friends at the Historical

Commission -- they really haven't had an increase in their granting funds in about 18 years. I'm thinking it was around 2000; I could be off by a year. But every year the amount of potential grantees, you know, just keeps ballooning and ballooning for the same size pie. And those are the kinds of funds that actually help these smaller sites keep open; will help all of us. Actually, oddly enough, I'm considered one of the larger sites, you know, and we're struggling. I can go in chapter and verse on that. But run this out through the rest of the state, and this is the kind of money that puts a little bit of staff to keep a place open -- more than some token amount -- so that way they could be part of the statewide promotion of tourism, and so on.

The other thing is this reaching out, as we said, to the school children here. We have often-- In our hundred-and-some-odd years, we have often led the state in the amount of actual school programs given on site every year. In my time here, I can go back maybe 9 or 10 years and we were doing about 22,000 school kids a year, coming here from every county in the state. You know, as you all have your own constituencies, your own cities that you are concerned about, why would you worry about Trenton or coming here? And I would say because your constituents come here; your kids come here. They still do; except for Warren County, I think, in the last count. But the thing is, the numbers have gone down; and almost all the kids who come here also take in the State Museum, and the State House; some also take in the William Trent, which has a hard time saying open.

But the biggest problem is busing. These kids are not getting history; they're not getting exposed to things. Occasionally, some club or

whatever will gin up the money to get them to go to, like, Philadelphia, or to D.C., or something like that. But right here, in our own state, where they need to develop this sense of place, this sense of heritage, this sense of self, it doesn't happen.

My colleagues down the street here at the State Museum and the State House, their school visitation is off 25 percent; ours is off similarly. We can't afford to stay open without the kids coming in. But we have never -- since 1999, I think it was, when we first started charging for school visits -- we have never charged any school -- public, private, charter, or whatever -- in Trenton to come here. And they don't come. And we go back, and they say they have no money for busing, even here in town. And it's a statewide problem. And just imagine, you're losing generations that really, really need it; not only for their own history education, their social studies, but their own critical thinking. They're going to be our leaders in not too long a time, and they're not coming in contact with this stuff, where they learn critical thinking; they learn the different challenges that New Jerseyans have gone through, time and time again; that it's not all new, it's not all something that you have to hide under the desk about. It's what you have to go out and say, "Hey, you know, New Jerseyans have been through this before, sometimes several times over. And they've managed to thrive beyond it."

We need to get this next generation involved in it. But they need mundane things like busing; they need mundane things that are spread around through the Historical Commission, and some of the other trusts, for brick and mortar things; from the different trusts for general operating support through the Historical Commission, so that way you

could have a much richer heritage. And then we could all present something much more than just my Old Barracks.

I know I can bore the hell out of you by telling you just about what we do here; but people are going to come here because we're sitting in the middle of a lot of really cool things. We need a lot of things to be open and thriving, and that also helps the restaurants down the street; as I said before, the gas stations. It ripples right through the economy.

You can see I am not submitting this as my-- (laughter)

SENATOR BEACH: Your printer's broken also.

MR. PATTERSON: I don't have one. (laughter) I'm not kidding; that's why it's crazy.

But I think I'll leave you with that.

If you can just try to keep in mind that we're talking here-- And I'm talking all the time with my colleagues -- many of them in the room; many beyond the room who aren't here today, who are throughout the history, heritage, and preservation community. And we're not all stuck on one thing; we're talking about history in general, heritage in general; how rich, how complex, how multicultural that all is. And how it's so easily related to by people from across the country, but yet we don't do anything to really promote ourselves to them. And we just keep missing a bet; it's money for your constituents, it's money for the State as a whole, and it's money into the next generation coming in.

So I'll leave you with that.

SENATOR BEACH: Thank you, Mr. Patterson.

Any last questions? (no response)

And again, thank you so much for hosting us. I appreciate your hospitality--

MR. PATTERSON: My pleasure.

SENATOR BEACH: --and just the wonderful place you have.

I just want to say to you that, you know-- And we had a lot of wonderful speakers, but I think focusing on children is something that is so important for our future, for what we do. And I just wanted to thank you for doing that.

MR. PATTERSON: My pleasure; thank you.

SENATOR BEACH: All right; no other comments? (no response)

That concludes our meeting; meeting adjourned.

Thank you.

**(HEARING CONCLUDED)**