

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 21, 2002 LR 6

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Question.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question before the body is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate ceases. Senator Beutler, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I am not going to speak to what the amendment does because after this long, long debate, and thank you for your patience, you all know what the amendment does. It's essentially the interdiction zone amendment. I think the question you have to ask yourself is a very practical question about ourselves, this Legislature, and about the people of the state, and where we are in this Legislature and where they are. Senator Schimek and I internally in this Legislature have sought the middle ground, have sought to place before you a proposition that is doable, that helps this state tremendously, and yet is something that can be acceptable to a majority. From this middle ground, there are people over here who honestly believe that the best thing to do is to open up this state to casino gambling altogether. And the reality that I would ask them to face and to try to be helpful on is the reality that the vast majority of this body is antigambling, antigambling altogether, and I would ask those people who want wide-open gambling to recognize that fact and let us do the middle ground, let us do the best we can. And over here on the other side for those folks who are philosophically opposed to gambling, and you're the majority, I ask you also to recognize a reality, and that is the reality of what I believe the people of the state want to do, i.e., stop draining our resources, and the reality of the ballot, and the reality of the economic situation that exists, and I would ask you to give ground a little bit and come to the middle because this concept is very controlled, very limited. And when we go