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FLOOR DEBATE

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the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act was passed. Indian gaming, I might remind you, is more heavily regulated and more secure than commercial gaming. Tribal gaming operations are regulated at three distinct levels: the government of a Indian Nation or Tribal Gaming Commission, state government oversight, and National Indian Gaming Commission. I would also point out that, with respect to the Santee Tribe, Indian gaming is the only economic development tool available. The Santee Sioux Tribe's reservation is in a remote, inconvenient location of northeastern Nebraska. In essence, the tribe was originally placed on this land via executive order, on land that no one else wanted. There has been little successful public or private sector economic development on the reservation these past hundred years. The federal government has not been successful and the state of Nebraska had not proposed any specific or credible alternatives for the Santee Sioux Tribe which would provide a meaningful source of tribal revenue and jobs. The Santee Sioux Tribe will use the gaming proceeds to diversify and conduct other economic enterprises, as well the other tribes. A majority of Americans support Indian gaming. Public opinion, both nationally and in various states, conclusively demonstrates that the public strongly supports gaming on Indian reservations. In the 1998 elections, 13 state and local referendums that dealt with gaming and Indian gaming won with overwhelming support from people of all walks of life. In surveys done all over the country, the general public favors casino style gambling on Indian lands but opposes expanded non-Indian gaming opportunities.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Reasons given for supporting tribal gaming are consistent with the purposes behind IGRA. The revenues will help the tribes and the surrounding communities to become economically self-sufficient, and the tribes should have the right to govern their own land. Like Nebraska state government uses its taxes, the tribal governments will use their gaming profits for the purposes of providing for the general welfare of their people. I ask for your vote on advancement of LR 6CA to Select File.