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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Tyson. Many senators are wondering what the lineup is and it's Senator Smith, Vrtiska, Redfield, Baker, Engel, Beutler, Jones, Landis, Janssen, Brashear, Schimek, Erdman, and Maxwell. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. This is, I believe, a very healthy and productive debate. We may disagree on some things, but I believe that this debate is good for each of us, and good for the institution. There's a lot to talk about, certainly. I want to start with my concern that LR 14CA, and the many issues contained therein, raise my question of whether the multiple-subject nature of this would put it in the same category as the petition that was ruled by the courts to be in violation of the constitution because of the single subject clause. We have a lot of issues here. I think Senator Brashear has pointed out the fact that with the interdiction zone, that's one issue. Indian gaming is another issue, and then they branch off from there. So certainly we have a lot of issues contained in LR 14CA. Does that mean I'm going to support LR 11CA? Not necessarily. But I do believe that this multiple issue...these multiple issues contained in LR 14CA is definitely problematic. There was speculation that Wal-Mart coming to a town reduces retail sales. Now, it might reduce retail sales to stores other than Wal-Mart, but my guess is that the net amount of retail sales goes up, but it's concentrated toward Wal-Mart. I think that speaks of a larger issue of limited amount of dollars in a community, and where they're channeled. We have limited amount of dollars in our economy, and the economies of communities around the state, and the influx of casinos coming to communities will rechannel that fixed number of dollars toward casinos that oftentimes are centered out of Vegas. And where are the people of Nebraska left? Maybe a little bit of entertainment. I'm also concerned about LR 14CA, where it says that basically you could not reimburse counties that contain a casino. I think Senator Bourne touched on this a bit. But I think it poses a big problem, when we've already heard from counties such as Thurston County, saying, hey, if you're going to force this on us, please help us out. And that just speaks of a larger issue all by itself. We hear about, we need to do this because we could end up with something worse. Now, we've seen ballot measures come