

and when not convenient, you argue against it, so I ain't going to bother arguing that one. Now probably the reason we have local gambling in the State of Nebraska is because the policy has been that we will allow gambling in areas where the people want it, just like we have certain liquor laws. There's a community in the state that wants to be a dry town. They themselves want to be that way. We allow them to be that way. If we want, the way we work on gambling is, thus far at least, until maybe we pass a state lottery, is that if local entities of a local, by choice of the people, they want to have a local lottery, a local keno or something like that, they can do that, but you do not have the whole state do it and that makes some sense. Now does that mean because you have a local business the state should not take, garner some income from that? I think they should and I think the question needs to be asked is, does it make a whole lot of sense to tax the Benson baseball team at a much higher rate than you do Douglas County or Scotts Bluff County? I mean, I think it doesn't make a whole lot of sense to me that you tax charitable organizations at a much higher level than you're going to tax these local governments. I just don't think that makes a whole lot of sense. You know, it should be...shall we tax it that much less? I don't think so. You know it just comes down to what we're talking...I actually misspoke. It comes down to between two and a half and \$3 million into the state coffers for this biennium and it's money that I think the state is entitled to and the question you have to ask is why do we...why are we legalizing or why are we advocating keno in the State of Nebraska? Is it for recreation, like boating and bicycle trails? No, the reason we, as policymakers, are advocating it, rightly or wrongly, is to generate money off of it and I think it's only fair that the state generates some money off of it as well. You know, it's 2 1/2, \$3 million. Look on the green sheet and see what that buys you in the next biennium. I think it's a tax that's certainly not onerous. It's only from two to four cents, two to 4 percent. As Senator Will mentioned, I mean, bingo tax is far higher than that. It simply increases the state's share. It increases our revenue in the next biennium and that's not necessarily by itself a good reason to vote for it because it does free up some money, but I think it's a policy decision. If you move it at 2 percent, as keno proliferates across the State of Nebraska, your chance to raise it probably is gone forever. Your window is right now. I think that window ought to be jumped through. I'd ask for support of the amendment.