

feel on this issue. I have already said so on the record many times. I'm very supportive. This would bring final closure, as Senator Landis said, on this issue, so with that I'll turn it over to Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Schimek and Senator Crosby. As members of the body know, I have not in the past supported the payment of Commonwealth after the State of Nebraska paid what the court said we were actually liable for. I say that because on this particular amendment and the way that it's going to be, I'm going to support it. I think it's a good amendment. I think it's a positive thing to do for not only Commonwealth depositors, but for Nebraska as a whole. I think, Senator Schellpeper, after...Senator Landis was absolutely correct that after the last election when we had the controversy of the 2 percent lid and the 1059 and the lottery and all the different ballot issues that were out there, the public did very well at handling not only all of that, but handling it very, very well and probably handles most of those issues better than we would. So I have confidence in the public. They're going to be able to evaluate it, they're going to be able to see very clearly what the options are. I think it's a good amendment. I wish we would have come here in this direction a long time ago and it's something that I certainly can support wholeheartedly.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Hefner, do you wish to speak to this amendment?

SENATOR HEFNER: Madam President and members of the body, I rise to oppose the Chambers amendment and also the other amendment. Here it is eight-thirty on a Friday evening, three days left and here we're taking up a major, a major amendment to our state Constitution. I don't think this has even had a public hearing. Hasn't even had a public hearing and here we're making a major change in our state Constitution. I always thought that our state Constitution was a sacred document that should be carefully analyzed. It also bothered me this afternoon, earlier this afternoon when we adopted the other amendment to our tax problem because I think we're making major changes here and I realize it's still up to a vote of the people, but it kind of bothers me that this body is making these or proposing these major changes at such a late hour in the session. I can sympathize with you folks that are a little closer to Commonwealth than perhaps I am, but I also had some constituents that had a loss in Commonwealth. This has been with us I