

let's not forget that. And if you do want to vote to bracket this bill, I think you ought to be ready to face up to what the impact is going to be on racing statewide because it may be fatal. Thank you.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Senator Schellpeper, you are next.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I also rise to oppose the bracket motion. This bill, as Senator Will has stated, is very important to the race horse industry in Nebraska. There is a lot of good things in this bill. We took four bills and put them into one bill. This bill is designed to help the horsemen. It is designed to help the racetracks. It is designed to help quarter horse tracks, now when I get the other amendment on. I think Senator Chambers just does not like this amendment. We should either vote the amendment up or down, but let's not bracket the whole bill. This is a very important bill. We have been working on it. We had a lot of studies last summer. We had studies last fall. We had everybody together. We have been working on this bill for sometime. Everybody came together and they agreed that this is a bill we are going to run with. It is a bill that all five racetracks were able to get behind. The horsemen got behind it, which is very unique because most generally we are on opposite sides of each issue. So let's not let one issue here decide what happens to this bill. Either...so let's not support the bracket. Let's vote this amendment by Senator Hall up or down because that can help Ak-Sar-Ben track sell bonds. It will lower their rate probably about 1 percent. As the Ak-Sar-Ben goes in Omaha, the other racetracks go. When you have the largest track that does about half of the business in the state, if they go down, racing in Nebraska will probably go down also. And you talk about an industry that is important to agriculture, to this state, just think about the rooms that people use, about the hay, the oats, the people involved in the industry. It is a very large industry. It is very important. I know a lot of us don't like to give tax breaks. I opposed 775 because I thought it was some big tax breaks, but here, again, we are in an industry that is barely surviving, and we need to try to help them so that we don't lose the entire industry to this state. We will have to take another look at it probably if they start making money. This amendment only affects Ak-Sar-Ben. We are not trying to deal with any other track. Senator Hall's amendment only affect Ak-Sar-Ben. So I oppose the bracket motion and let's move on with the bill. Thank you.