

gaming entities. You heard the arguments, we're talking about having an impact on restaurants, on bars, on motels, on a variety of industries that are being affected now because of what is occurring in neighboring states. Just as I argued several years when I was the main sponsor of the state lottery bill, we in Nebraska need to be more responsive, I think, in this area when we go to enact legislation. We simply have been behind the curve consistently. We have given dollars hand over fist to neighboring states, in particular Iowa, on not only this issue when we're talking about video gaming, but before hand, to Powerball, to the state lottery. We finally have caught up, at least in that area. But the fact is you're seeing the same thing occur now only on a much larger scale. You are seeing the opening of casinos in Iowa, you are seeing the expansion of types of gaming that are available to those that are not available in the State of Nebraska. You've seen the estimates that say that the Council Bluffs facilities are going to draw 80 percent of their revenue from the Nebraska side of the river. So the fact is we're not really debating expansion of gambling because it's here. And people in Nebraska are engaging in it, they simply are not doing it in the State of Nebraska. We are seeing...and you've heard about the detriments of expanded gambling. We're going to see the detriments, we just aren't seeing the benefits at this point. And I think that's a mistake, I thought it was a mistake when I introduced the state lottery bill, I think it's a mistake right now. I think we need to take a look at responsible expansion of gaming opportunities that keep Nebraska dollars in Nebraska. I think Senator Hall has done an exemplary job of drafting a bill that not only would provide for these additional opportunities, but also would fairly distribute the dollars, not only among gaming entities, but also between the state and local subdivisions, and also put in place a regulatory mechanism that is superior to any that we have with the current forms of gaming that we have, which are, as you all know, charitable gaming, keno, charitable gaming consisting of bingo and pickle cards, horse racing. There are any number of gaming opportunities right now in the State of Nebraska. This, I would submit to you, is not that drastic a step, it's simply something that will allow us to maintain a balance with our neighboring states to keep dollars in the state. With that I would...I don't think this debate needs to take very long. I think this is an issue that you've all been visited with, if not by Senator Hall or myself then certainly by entities in the Rotunda that all have been vote-counting for several days on this. I know there are some people that want to