

bring every little petty thing up to a vote, that's wrong. We're sent down here to represent. But a few issues are major, this happens to be one of those issues that 25 biased people should not make a decision on. And I want that to be stated for the record. I received hundreds of calls on this issue, and some of those people are biased. And I say, do you want your one vote to dictate what all Nebraskans should do? And most of them agree, no. So let's get a consensus. The word here is a consensus of Nebraskans. Personally, I'm against it, my vote will be no on the ballot. But here a consensus is the word that should dictate the future of Nebraska. And I thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, colleagues. Senator Schellpeper, could you respond to a couple of questions, please?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Yes.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: First of all, I'd like for you to expand a little bit for me on why you believe that the commission should be in the constitution so that it's outside the political arena. What do you mean by the benefits of it being outside the political arena?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: I think if you're going to make a decision, if you're a voter out there, and if you know that there is going to be a commission that is going to be regulating casino gambling or expansion of any gambling, you're going to feel more confident than you would by saying I'm going to let the Legislature decide where they're going to put these machines. The commission would be appointed by the Governor from, you know, different parties. It wouldn't be any political arena. And I think you'd have a lot more high class gambling, expansion of gambling if you had a commission than without it. We debated this issue a lot. And the commission kept coming back for what other states did, and they found out that the commission is the only way to run expansion of gambling.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: And I don't have a problem with the commission. I guess my concern is, why we would want to put it in the constitution? Why it would need to be protected in the constitution? And do I understand your...I mean is that so the people...