

other states, and the gambling money will go out of the state one way or the other. And I am not sure that I am really compelled that the money is going to Iowa and South Dakota is any worse than the money going to New Jersey or Nevada. I have been waiting to hear some arguments about the horse racing industry because that is an argument that I might have some sentimental reason or some other reason to really listen to. It's also an economic reason for our state. Much of the money for horse racing does stay in the state of Nebraska. I haven't heard that, and I still don't believe that even if we do have some argument about horse racing that that is ultimately going to save the horse racing industry. It is going to be people deciding every day whether they want to spend their time doing it, and for the history of this state, I wish that some would, but I am not sure that anything that we do today is going to make a difference about that. But the argument that has really troubled me the most is that we should just let the people vote, because it is not about trusting the people. It is about what we're going to do and what our obligation is. This is not a referendum and it doesn't mean that we should have an easy, uninformed vote about this, that we should defer what we think is in the best interest of the state to someone else to make the decision. It does not mean that we can abdicate our roll in responsible government. We have to do what we think is right. And the other argument that's really concerning me, though, is the argument that's being made that we can't trust the Legislature, we can't trust ourselves. I think the very fact that we've had some of the compelling arguments on the side against gambling means that we can trust the Legislature, that we are going to be thoughtful in the way that we do this. But nothing about letting the people vote is going to absolve us of the consequences of our actions. We are obligated to leadership. We are obligated...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: ...to do what we think is right for the state of Nebraska. And so I will support Senator Chambers' bracket motion because I think it is what is best for the state of Nebraska, and what is best for the state of Nebraska is to spend time discussing property taxes and other issues that are related to the growth of this state. I believe we have given this discussion a fair shot.