

the positions that they take in the first place because this is a place where you are evaluated on the basis of what you say and what you do. I cannot believe that this issue is so detrimental to the public good of the state of Nebraska that it cannot be submitted to the voters, whether it should be submitted to the voters in exactly the form that it stands now or in some modified version. The issue has been addressed repeatedly by the people of the state of Nebraska. What is, what is the rationale for not now submitting it to them again? I can think of none. And I do not support the bracket motion.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Well, you've heard a lot of these comments before, but I just wanted to make myself perfectly clear. I don't pretend to speak for everyone, for all the churches, Catholic or otherwise. I don't pretend to speak for all the veterans organizations, or all the philanthropic charities that use pickle income and bingo and so forth. But the people that I have talked to, the people that I have gone out to talk to as well as the people that have called me, we haven't...I don't keep a log next to my phone simply with tic marks for or against, but I try to engage the caller, the individual, and talk about the issue in order to find out what their real concerns are. And what I have encountered is that the real concern is that we have a full-blown Las Vegas style casino that further erodes the charitable base in Omaha. But when I talk about the alternatives that 43CA would provide this body, such as electronic gambling devices, replacing some of the pickle machines, I get a different story. And the story I have there is, yes, yes, we're getting clobbered by Iowa, we'd love to have something like this. And this is nearly without exception, has been my experience. I encourage those senators that simply record the tic marks next to their phone, if anyone does that, but engage the caller, say what is really your concern. And then explain what 43CA would do. So, and you know I, I have spoken against this bracket motion. I think it's obvious that there's no support in this body for full-blown casinos. I think you should trust the voters of Nebraska to decide, first, whether we should in fact expand gambling in Nebraska, be it on whatever level we're talking about. And, two, I think you should trust this legislative body, that there won't be 15 or 20 minds changed by next session. I don't think that will happen.