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from the committee statement, I was a committee member who voted against LB 791. We are in a trend of lower revenues from these lotteries. I think it's a trend we probably can't stop. If we go from the 25 percent payout to the state to the 15 percent, that means that we are going to have to have 40 percent more play, 40 percent more gambling just to stay where we are, and I saw that as something that probably wasn't good public policy, and I just wanted to make sure that people knew why I, in committee, voted against this and why I will probably support the Chambers amendment and oppose the bill.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Kristensen, you're recognized to speak.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. I rise on a little different issue of this debate because this has tended to be a all-encompassing debate on lottery proceeds. I had a bill this year which would have addressed the lottery in the area of the environmental trust proceeds. And why is that important? When I first started to introduce that bill, I really didn't pay a whole lot of attention and I just assumed the money that was spent went for very legitimate worthy causes, and that was my information at the time. I was interested in addressing building maintenance and that we had let our buildings go in this state, and was looking for some dedicated source of funds, rather than sending the money off to be distributed by a board, to actually put it into some priorities that we had in this state. However, since I've become involved with that bill through the work of the committee, I think there's some really disturbing things that this Legislature needs to listen to about where that money goes, and that it isn't all going for the great and wonderful things that we believe that are out there. In fact, these proceeds, for some reason that people don't think lottery money is real money, it's funny money. Doesn't have to go through the appropriations process. We really didn't tax anybody, they just gave it to us, and since they gave it to us, it really doesn't have to be really all that accountable. I went and got the list of where the money went for this year's environmental trust fund, and let me tell you if it went through the Appropriations Committee and it had to compete for priority, I dare tell you I'll bet there is not three things on this list that would be