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LR 289

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Crosby. (Applause) Sorry, public outbursts are not appropriate. Senator Janssen, on the motion to place LB (sic--LR) 289CA on General File.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature. You all have the packet before you that Senator Schimek distributed. If you'll look back on the blue pages, there's one from the city of Creighton. City officials feel that the residents of the state of Nebraska should have an opportunity vote in a general election as to whether or not they believe gaming should be allowed on Nebraska Indian reservations. My fellow colleagues, that's what we're asking you to do--allow the people of the state of Nebraska the opportunity to decide for themselves if they want Indian gaming in Nebraska. It's as simple as that. How in the world did you get elected to the position you're in if it wasn't a majority of the constituents in your district that put you here? Think about that. How does the Governor get elected? He gets elected by the people of the state of Nebraska. It is an election process. It's an election issue. You're not going to see, as we heard testimony in the General Affairs Committee, that you're going to see ten casinos in every town. Let's get real. There's 1.6 million people in this state. Who in their right mind would build huge casinos to accommodate tens of thousands of people? It's not going to happen. We're asking a group of Nebraska citizens, people who try to educate their children, who try to feed their children, to help themselves. I wish all of you could have seen the tape we saw yesterday morning about the...the Indians...the Indian Nation in Minnesota, what they've done for their communities. They've built homes. They've revived businesses. They've built playgrounds. They've established a Little League Baseball team. They've done so many things for their people by doing that with those gambling dollars. Another thing that you have to think about is the compact. When the compact is put into place there will be stipulations that the state of Nebraska probably will get some revenue, more than likely, if we don't get too greedy. That revenue can be used for compulsive gambling. Now we're using revenue that comes from the lottery, that comes from church bingo. Part of that revenue is used to finance the compulsive gambling that is happening outside of this state. The problem we have with compulsive gambling is not coming from the local