

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 27, 2003 LR 14

the calving barn or the shop or whatever, gets cleaned up and comes down here and looks at what we're doing. And we say, we don't need all these words in the constitution. We can demonstrate that this morning. We've had all summer, fall, to work on this constitutional amendment. Gets out here on the floor, and lo and behold, we're already amending it. We have several amendments pending on here, changing a few words here, a few words there. My point is, we don't need all these words in the state constitution. I'm going to support Senator Janssen's constitutional amendment. It's clean. It lets us handle the details, the busywork, if you will, on the floor of the Legislature. If this current constitutional amendment had been passed into law, put in the constitution, we'd be back trying to figure out how we're going to amend a few words in the state's constitution. Inappropriate. We just don't need all these words in our state constitution. I agree fully with Senator Brashear. This is not very noble language we're putting in our state constitution here. Way too many words, too many definitions, things that...when you get the state of Nebraska and businesses involved with trying to locate these five casinos, and possibly four on Indian lands, Native American lands, there's going to be a lot of questions to be answered. And we've got this thing locked in our constitution, definitions and so on. It's going to be next to impossible to change it with a constitutional amendment every two years, to modify this thing, amend it. So I absolutely cannot support this. I find it difficult for me to support any gambling bill, period. Because you've also got to realize that if we pass a casino gambling constitutional amendment and actually have these things scattered around the state, and that's what I...keeping the option for western Nebraska. We...there are people out in western Nebraska, and we have probably a way better population base to work from out there on the front range, which is all of an hour, two hours from us out there, than eastern Nebraska has, using western Iowa and eastern Nebraska citizens. So we have the potential out in western Nebraska to have a casino or two. This particular constitutional amendment limits us to a two-mile interdiction zone and five casinos. I can tell you right now without asking a question that five casinos are going to be proposed on the eastern end of the state. There won't be one of them out in western Nebraska. And my two-mile interdiction