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FLOOR DEBATE

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zone...we're looking at a map...I have two towns within two miles. I have Venango, population 35-40. And I have Haigler. I think there's about 100 people in that town. Those are not viable options. In all honesty, I doubt we're going to build a casino in either one of those towns. But we do have some places we could build a casino out there, and access all these people in the front range. So I just absolutely cannot support this. As I said, it's a stretch for me to support a gambling constitutional amendment at all. But under the circumstances, it's going to be on the ballot if we don't. It's our responsibility to our constituents to do it right. And in this case, we simply can't put all these words in the constitution, as witnessed by the amendments today. We've had all this time to work on it, put it in the state constitution. Folks, we haven't gotten it right in the last six months. We're going to be trying to amend it today. It's just, to me, not workable. We need to get past this constitutional amendment, go on to debate Senator Janssen's, and go from there. So with that, I'd return the rest of my time to the Speaker. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Baker. In fairness to those that passed over because I asked (inaudible) speak on amendment, I'm going to ask you, if you going to to speak, please stick to the amendment. Otherwise, we're going to go back to the top of the list. Senator Engel?

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, you caught me off guard, there. I don't know what I'm going to speak about, but I'm going to speak a little bit here. (Laugh) What I wanted to mention, though, is, you know, in the past I've always been opposed to gambling, and I remain so. As far as these two particular bills, including this amendment, is that I think the second one of Senator Janssen is a better bill, although I'm not going to support that either. Because I think the Legislature...anything that goes through, I think the Legislature should have some control, and I can't see where we're going to have any control under this particular bill. Another thing, as far as people talking about bringing these casinos into Nebraska, Nebraska will never ever be a destination. You know, we...Las Vegas and Atlantic City are destinations. We are never going to be a destination. Who's