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FLOOR DEBATE

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PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Jensen. The Chair would recognize Senator McDonald, to be followed by Senators Brashear, Beutler, Schrock, Chambers, Stuhr, and Jensen. Senator McDonald.

SENATOR McDONALD: Lieutenant Governor, members of the body, I rise in support of Senator Janssen's constitutional amendment, and the reason that it is, many of us feel that we are all-powerful down here. We're sent down here by the people that voted us in. But let's face it, we're not that all-powerful. We have two houses down here, and one of them is the legislative house and the other one is the people. And the people have the ability to use petitions to get what they want on the ballot, and they have spoken. And if there hadn't been a technicality in the petition drive that was just recently refused to be put on the ballot because of that technicality, it would have been there. And they won't get it wrong next time. They'll get it right, and I have reason to believe that if the Legislature doesn't make another step of taking the opportunity to put something on the ballot, there is going to be another constitutional amendment. People will have the ability to vote on gambling whether the state of Nebraska through the Legislature gives them that ability or not. They are taking it in their own hands. They took term limits in their own hands, and do we like it? Was it the best thing that happened for the state of Nebraska? You know, that's yet to be determined. But they will take it into their own hands. If it passes...it will pass, there's enough support. If it doesn't pass, then we don't need to worry about it. But if it does pass, we need to make sure that it is the best plan out there that's going to benefit the state of Nebraska. Those that write the bill or the constitutional amendment will benefit from it. If we, as the state of Nebraska through the Legislature put something on the ballot, the state of Nebraska will benefit. Will there be many benefits? We don't know, but we certainly don't want to have the opportunities for casinos in every bar. Will one of those constitutional amendments allow for it? Possibly. We look at the two constitutional amendments that were up here yesterday and today. You know, we've passed constitutional amendments, put out to the vote of the people, and you know sometimes we get it wrong, and then we try to go back and change it. And we need