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LR 11

AM1119, Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes. Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise to speak in opposition to the Pederson amendment. And I'll tell you why shortly. But Senator Jensen, I know that you've raised this issue on more than one occasion, and you really deserve to have some discussion on that, and I hope that we can have that discussion today. I'm just passing out a couple of handouts that show a little bit about how the state...what the state gaming tax rate is in different states, and what the gaming tax revenue is. That's on...that's excluding Indian casinos. And then the blue copy talks about the tribes and compacts that they have with the states. And we can go over that and maybe answer some questions. And also, I have some information that Senator Schrock gave me. I guess I'm not going to take time right now to go over that too, but maybe we can see that you get copies of that. The problem with talking about revenues with any specificity is that we don't know what the rate will be that we will negotiate or that we will insist upon before anybody can be licensed. And that rate has been steadily going upward across the nation. It started out low, and it has crept upward to...I don't think 30 percent is beyond the bounds of reality at this time. So we can have that discussion. I think it's an important discussion to have. I would like to mention the reasons I think that AM1119 would not be good. First of all, it is permissive. It says that we can put anything, any kind of games that we want to, basically. And that is one of the reasons that I opposed the original LR 11CA. I thought if we left it that wide open, that there would be a tremendous amount of pressure on this Legislature to adopt every kind of gambling under the sun, basically. And I don't want that. I don't think the people of Nebraska want that either. In fact, we just did a survey in my own legislative district. And one of the questions on the survey was, do you support the idea of expanded gambling, and then, if so, what kind? Their top choice was Indian gaming. The second one was a more controlled kind of situation which the Legislature had oversight over. The third and least popular was the just unlimited kind of gambling. And there were...they really went down significantly in number of votes. The second reason I'm concerned about the Pederson amendment is that it includes