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think it's more just a visceral gut feeling amongst the populace that we want to have a crack at this, at least to vote on it. I don't share that feeling, but I don't agree with some that I've heard here today say, well, yeah, they can do it and nothing we can do can stop them. That's true, but we can compete with them. It was said here, well, if the gambling interests go ahead and push on through with a new petition and get something, then that will be on their heads, a pox on them. Well, I don't think it's that simple. I think if we leave the field open to them and let them define and shape expanded gambling in Nebraska, then I think that's on our heads. I think that's an abdication of responsibility. That's why I'm supportive of the resolution. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Maxwell. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, we've kind of gone around now to where we're starting to talk about whether we should have gambling at all. And as I said, initially, we already have it. And we say, well, then we shouldn't have a vote on this sort of thing. We're going to have a vote, one way or the other, by the people. And I think it's our responsibility to prepare and present to the public the best possible proposal that will be of benefit to the entire state. Assuming that there is benefit in gambling, it should be equally spread among the state, and that's what my proposal does. And this amendment does two other things. "A," it retains with the Legislature the power to structure enabling legislation. Do we want to leave the enabling thing to someone who may be circulating a petition? We have no further control of it. We have no interest in it. I think we're falling down on our responsibility. I don't think we can continue to say something may happen. Something is going to happen. And I think we need to submerge some of our own particular feelings and say, what's in the best interest of the state? So I'm suggesting that this does two things. It gives us the authority to propose appropriate good legislation, and I think we're up to that. And, secondly, I think it gives the public the opportunity to say what it wants in its own area, and I think they're up to that. And I think that we should not live in this