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FLOOR DEBATE

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LR 11

bill even if the trust fund component was gone from it, and I think that the trust fund is the worst part of this bill. I think we need another trust fund in our statute or in our constitution like we need a hole in the head or another \$500 million deficit. But that's just my personal opinion. I want to kind of compare and contrast the underlying bill or the underlying resolution, LR 11CA, which says that the Legislature may authorize gaming at up to eight locations or eight facilities in the state of Nebraska, and then Senator Brashear's amendment, which says that there will be six locations statewide, two locations or, excuse me, two casinos in the metropolitan zone, two casinos within a racetrack...within racetrack enclosures west of Omaha, one casino west of the sixth meridian in a racetrack, and then, as I read it, one casino west of the sixth meridian but it doesn't...there's no requirement that that be in a racetrack. Senator Brashear's amendment also says that all revenues generated shall be appropriated exclusively to the Nebraska Trust Fund and provides for a nine-member board and the proceeds therefrom will be used for community betterment. And again, I...if this is our only choice, I will support this, even though I think that we need another trust fund in the statutes or in the constitution...that I think that's a terrible idea. Every one of us has had instances where we've run up to the people who have these types of trust funds and say, well, you can't do anything with that. And so again, I think that that's a bad idea. But if you really...if you compare Senator Brashear's amendment to the underlying bill, there's really not a lot of difference except that he reduces the number of casinos and then allocates them throughout the state, and it's not entirely dissimilar to the amendment that Senator Louden had on either General or Select File. That being said, I will support Senator Brashear's amendment, even though I don't like the trust part of it, but I do believe it is so important that we, the Legislature, do this this year, because I truly believe that the petition will be back. I think if we don't adopt something, and you've heard this before, if we don't adopt something in a controlled manner, you're going to see a proliferation of slot machines throughout the state at every corner Kwik Shop, things of that nature, and I think that's the absolutely wrong approach for our state. I do think that the area in the metropolitan area should be