

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 4, 2004 LR 14

this up, and I understand that, because you do not support this. You do not support it, and the way you can get your point across is to be...by voting no against anything that has to do with gambling. Apparently, this is what your constituents want you to do. I don't know your district. I don't know it. I do know mine pretty well. There are opponents to this type of an operation in my district, but there are more proponents. I would say the calls I get and the letters I get are ten to one. Why don't you get something done? If the ballot question is out there, I don't care what it is, we're going to vote for it. And you know there are going to be some things on the ballot. Not everyone in this body is going to vote for it, and I realize that, some of you because of a moral issue, some of you because you think that the majority of your constituents think you shouldn't. Well, I know in my particular situation the opposition of this is lesser than the proponents. So I urge you to vote against Senator Smith's amendment, get on with a vote on the...on Senator Schimek's amendment, and move forward. We still have one more round of debate on this issue, if we can move this bill. But I urge you to listen to your constituents. That's all I can ask you to do. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Redfield, on the Smith amendment.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I rise in support of the amendment. This is not an uncommon practice in other states that have approved expanded gambling. They do generally give some decision-making power to the local counties, and I believe that that's a legitimate request. I believe that Senator Smith is offering an improvement to the product that is before us, and I think that's commendable, because I know that Senator Smith is not a supporter of the constitutional amendment that is before us. And it is easy to sit back and not make any effort to improve something. But I have seen others in our body do this. I've seen Senator Beutler improve language. I've seen Senator Chambers improve language in bills that he opposed. So I do not feel that that is something that is not open to those who don't support the bill. I think it's a responsibility of all of us, and I will support Senator Smith on his amendment. Thank you.