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SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Mines, followed by Senator Baker.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. President, colleagues. I stand in opposition to AM2464, and in support of AM2402 and the underlying LR 14CA. Colleagues, we've argued the gambling issue round, and we've argued it flat. We talked about it last year, and we're droning on and on this session. I can't believe that anyone in this body has not already made up their mind. We can pull and tug at each other, but I think many of us here are ready to vote. The discussion has gone beyond interesting, and I think it's just time to move forward. It might be interesting...I've sent out a little survey to about 3,500 of my constituents. Not that I wouldn't like to do more, I just can't afford to do it yet. But of the responses I've received--one of the questions, by the way, was, do you support casino gambling? And 62 percent of my constituents have said, yeah, we support casino gambling. I personally don't support casino gambling. I think it's wrong for many reasons. But I understand the citizens of Nebraska, most citizens of Nebraska, want an opportunity to vote on it. And far be it from me to stand in the way of people, the voters, making choices. You know, we can argue the moral high ground and we can argue the economic impact. The point really is we're going to have three constitutional amendments that our voters are going to face in November. That's it. And I believe if this body doesn't come forward with a thoughtful, well-drafted constitutional amendment that ensures that we control the regulation of casinos, that it's going to get...that we may be faced with something that we don't like, in fact, we will be faced with something we don't like, and all the criticism that will be thrown our way for not doing anything, as Senator Beutler had brought up, we'll deserve every bit of it. Your constituents, my constituents, are expecting the right to vote on whether or not there's casino gambling in Nebraska. You know what, I'm not sure what the opponents of gambling are afraid of. I do. But I believe in my heart of hearts...first of all, I know that I'm going to vote against it at the poll. And I believe that the majority of Nebraskans will make that right choice, will make the choice not to have casino gambling in Nebraska. But for goodness sakes,