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FLOOR DEBATE

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excellent job. Mayor Whitaker has been an outstanding mayor for the city of North Platte. And during the time that the city of North Platte has been going through many industrial changes and expanding their city, they have dealt with many issues involving the environment, and in my opinion Mayor Whitaker has done an outstanding job of dealing with those. And I would heartily concur with their endorsement. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Seeing no further lights, Senator Schrock, you're recognized to close. He waives closing. The question before us is the approval of the Natural Resources Committee report, confirmation report. All in favor vote aye, and opposed nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Record vote, Legislative Journal page 664.) 36 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the confirmation report.

SPEAKER BROMM: The confirmation report is approved. We'll move to Select File, 2004 senator priority bills. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Select File. (LR 14CA) The bill was presented yesterday. No Enrollment and Review amendments. When the Legislature adjourned, Senator Smith had pending FA1469. (Legislative Journal page 659.)

SPEAKER BROMM: The Chair would recognize Senator Schimek for a brief update on where we're at with the bill since it was in process yesterday.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. All that I will mention to you right now is that we did amend this bill on General File, and we simply struck parts of the original bill, and said that...and defined, in two different paragraphs, defined casino gaming and also said that there could be up to eight casino locations and that the Legislature would provide for the operation, regulation and taxation of casino gaming. And it's a very short bill and a very short constitutional amendment at this time, and there are amendments, pending, I believe.