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FLOOR DEBATE

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that were to be used as an illustration here, because those are the counties that are going to lose employment and lose business money big time. I also stand to underline and support Senator Smith's comments about the future, if this were to go forward. I'm still trying to figure out what to do. The people say they ought to have a right to vote and so on. Not many people say that, and certainly the ones that know what the issues are, are not saying it, but yet I do have some responsibility there. If we were to go ahead and put it on the ballot, I would certainly be voting against it and working against it. And if it were to pass, I just want to underline, as Senator Smith said, there is no obligation on this body to do anything. I would be one who would be voting against any authorization of a casino any place in the state. Now there's a scary piece to that, and that is that if I do that, casino interests, which have unlimited pockets and for whom \$200,000 is chump change, will come in and buy out whoever tries to follow me. They can buy those elections. But certainly there is nothing in this that would prevent the...or that says the Legislature has to do something about it, and I feel we'd be obligated to do another thing that catches me here. We're to protect the citizens. If one of our jobs is to protect the citizens, we'd be obligated to be voting against casinos, whoever is down here. One of the ways to help the people protect themselves is this amendment which would allow them to vote locally. I thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kruse. Senator Smith, and this would be your third time, Senator.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I want to continue what I was saying about economic professors and bankers. Certainly bankers see the economy coming together with the bankers' customers. They see the devastation. In fact, this American Legion article here that talked about Kate, who pawned her wedding ring, she went on to commit suicide after she blew the couple's savings and \$5,000 tax refund. But the problem was her husband wasn't even quite aware of what was happening with her addiction. It's a lot easier for us to see the addictions of tobacco, the addictions of alcohol and the violence that it creates, but there doesn't seem to be as much concern about, I think, a more pervasive and certainly a more