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FLOOR DEBATE

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everybody on this floor to see where they were on this issue and, as I mentioned before, I think that we found a comfort level, amongst some at least if not most, at the five to six level, and we decided to go with five. I think that this is the biggest question of the whole issue, is how many, but I want to take you back to the fact that this is permissive language only. It does not say you will establish five casinos or you will establish eight. It simply gives you, the Legislature, the opportunity to do that. Now, I had a little discussion with my mother the other day and she's been following this issue for ever since we've been on it, I guess. And she said to me, well, now the voters are the ones who finally get to decide this, aren't they? And I said, yes, that's right. And I think let's not lose sight of that, that the voters are the ones who are finally going to approve or disapprove this whole LR 14CA. And I sincerely believe that if we leave here without giving the voters the opportunity to do that, that there is going to be a great deal of frustration with this Legislature. I also predict that it would give the petitions that are out there a much better chance of passage if we do nothing this year. I don't think they'll have any trouble getting the signatures if we do nothing this year. If we do something this year, I believe it will take some of the steam out of those petition drives. You know, you may be opposed to gambling and you may be opposed to Nebraska actually getting any of the proceeds from gambling that our sister state across the river is getting from Nebraska, but I think that you need to ask yourself what happens if we do nothing this year. And I think that the answer has to be then whatever is out there, whatever petition gets on that ballot, has a good chance of being adopted. And I could...I promised no more handouts this year because we've done so many over the past years, but last year I passed out a very excellent poll that was done and it was done statewide and it said that Nebraskans overwhelmingly want to vote on this issue. And I think that, you know, you have to do what you think is right, but you also have to take into consideration what the consequences are if the voters are thwarted for too long a period of time. And I think the voters are going to feel very thwarted. I think they will be more likely to sign one of those petitions if this Legislature does nothing. And I would encourage you to adopt this amendment. I would also say that we still have another