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FLOOR DEBATE

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going right now we could, next year, come back and say we don't want any. That's possible. So instead of from one up to five, it could be zero. That would be in your hands. With that, I give the rest of the time, with Senator Schimek's approval, to Senator Beutler.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Is that okay with you, Senator Schimek?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: That is. That is.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, I guess it just kind of boils down to two, two elements that were...that are being changed with this amendment. One is reducing the number of casinos from eight to five, which seems to come in the direction that most people are inclined. Obviously, we hope it's at least a decent compromise for everybody involved. Secondly, I think for the very first time in the casino debate, the proponents of the matter have conceded to a local vote. So now there is the added protection of the local vote. So if you say yes to this matter when it comes up for the ultimate votes, you're saying to the people of the state, yes, we will let you vote as a whole on casino gambling; we want you to; we want you to know what you think about it. And if they vote yes, we will be compelled to also, under the amendment, allow each and every county in which a casino location is authorized by the Legislature to, itself, vote on whether they agree that there should be a casino there. So it's about as protected a measure as you can get in terms of allowing people to vote on it, and the only rationale for not voting for it, I suppose, would be that you feel so strongly about it that you don't even want to let the people vote on it. So I think that really capsulizes the amendment. Everything else in it is related to detail and technical in nature. Those are the two elements that Senator Schimek is asking you to consider. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Further discussion on the first part of the divided question? Senator Erdman.