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LR 209

under the impression of prior to arriving in this legislative session, and here's where I think we are. Before we got here it was, we want to vote on whether we have a State Fair or not. Seemed reasonable to me. But here's what we're actually voting on--whether or not we want to protect different segments in our constitution. Now here's why I draw that differentiation. Should LR 209CA go to the people and should it pass, we still won't know whether or not the people of the state of Nebraska want a State Fair or not. We won't know that, and here's why. Because we have individuals lobbying us to vote for this for their own interests--Environmental Trust, we have the education group that's saying, well, we'd like some things a little different but we would be overall supportive of having some more protection for the funds that we're currently getting under the law that's statutory. So you've got those two out there that will be helping to push this proposal forward. And then you have the group that Senator Cudaback has been working with, that Senator Landis has been working with directly, and that is the group that says, we need a little help here to run the State Fair for the best interests of the state of Nebraska. That's what we're voting on. We can vote on it. We can vote up or down. We...it may be valuable to leave the bracket up there, to have a vote to see where the body is at. But that's the process. There are other ways to do this, but I would offer that they're probably more expensive, they're more time-consuming. If our true goal was to have a vote of the people on whether we wanted a State Fair or not, we could do that, but the Legislature couldn't do it. Do it by referendum. Circulate a petition. We know that there are a few out there in other areas, but we could circulate a petition throughout the state. The county fairs association could get together, they could get the necessary signatures, and it would say, we're going to give the State Fair 10 percent of the lottery proceeds, yes or no. It would be in our statutes. If it passed, we couldn't address it for a number of years. That could be done. That would be a straight up or down on whether or not we have a State Fair or not. So again, back to LR 209CA, what we're being asked to do is to vote for three different things, all moving in the same direction, for three different benefits, but in the larger idea that we're going to benefit the entire state. So that's where we are. Where am I at? Look, I'm open to this