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FLOOR DEBATE

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that exist, and so they're going to raise their own funds, get the signatures, and put it on the ballot. And I would say that the more that goes to the ballot, the easier it will be to defeat everything. And so those who object to the notion that casinos are bad...or object to the notion that casinos are good, may get their way regardless. However, let's save the headache. Let's save the headache and the time that's being consumed with this session. In fact, I question whether the pro-casino folks have the votes here today. There are some absences that, if you look at the public record relating to votes, they'd be inclined to support the casino proposal, vote cloture...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: ...perhaps. And I don't think the votes are here today. So I might be doing the proponents a favor by talking about some issues here. But, of course, not too long ago there were two hours taken up on the floor here, waiting for votes to arrive, on General File. So my amendments that I'm proposing I believe are certainly legitimate and should be considered, notwithstanding the fact that there are proponents on this issue that have taken up time. I think Senator Beutler called it a strategic pause in delaying the vote on General File, and that was two hours. We could have been doing other business that day, but we were waiting for the votes to arrive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you. Mr. President and members, I am rising to encourage you to vote in favor of the motion to substitute. I think that one thing I did not plan to do when I came up on this floor today was to talk a lot, was to try to respond to every accusation that's made regarding the merits or demerits of gambling. I think that this issue has been discussed until everybody is fairly sick of it. And I am not going to try to keep us going on this any longer than I have to. Having said that, there are a couple of things that I would like to respond to that I haven't been responding to because I haven't wanted to prolong the debate. But I keep hearing over and over again that gambling is going to be a net drain on our