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think you're either for it or you're against it. And hopefully you agree with the local vote, as well as the authorization by the Legislature. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I haven't spoken on this issue very often, quite seldom, actually. I am a cosponsor of this bill and Senator Janssen's bill. And like Senator Friend, my friend Senator Friend--hope you're not offended when I say that, Senator--I'm passionate on this issue. But I can't express my views quite the way and with quite the passion that he does. And I envy the way he's able to do that. But I would also tell you, in my first election back in 2000, the number one question, the first question that came to me in my press conference announcing my candidacy was where I stood on this issue. And at that time we were talking about gambling on the Indian reservations. And I also knocked on a lot of doors and walked to most of the doors in my district. And people want to vote on this issue. Now I admit, it is controversial. There are people out there that are against it. But a vast majority of them want the chance to vote. In my second election, as you remember, I was redistricted. And I went into a new community in my district, and there was a major business person there, and he laughed at me. He said, you don't really think that you can win. And I said, well, I think I would or I wouldn't be here. And he really...he laughed at me. But we carried on a conversation for about a half-hour, and this issue came up. And he said, do you have any yard signs? I want one in my yard. He was adamantly for my opponent, but this one issue changed his vote, because people want to vote. They're very upset with us because they feel we're denying them the right to vote. I've heard many people say they don't care if it passes or doesn't pass. They just want to have that chance to vote. I'd like to thank Senators Schimek, Janssen, and Beutler for the work that they've put into this. They've put an awful lot of work in this, trying to get a compromise. You know, I'm sure that this particular proposal isn't what each and every one of them wants. But they have tried very, very hard to get something that the majority of this body can agree with. And I've tried to stick with them, tried to get something out there for the people to