

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 8, 2004

LR 14

think there should be something to vote on. We should vote. But I think we should send an amendment out there that probably has a chance of passing. When you say there's going to be just two casinos in Nebraska, and you put that amendment up against some of the petition amendments that have been...are going to funnel some of the money to the local service clubs and some of those things like that, do you actually think that people are going to vote for that, for your amendment? Or are they going to vote for the one that's going to funnel the money into the local area? So I think you have to construct some kind of amendment that at least won't insult their common sense that goes out there to be on the ballot. And with the way we're constructing this thing, and the amount of debate we've had over this one, I don't think this is the one to do that sort of thing. I would guess...hazard to guess whether it will pass muster or pass the voters. I think you should rethink this thing and get something that would pass on the...appeal to the voters out there. They're the ones that are going to decide. If you're going to do gambling in Nebraska, you should give the voters a choice to either decide whether they want to have gambling as an industry in Nebraska or not gambling as an industry in Nebraska. It shouldn't be set up here so we're micromanaging it with one or two casinos in a certain area and going from there. Whenever you vote this into the amendment, you're tying the hands of future legislators in...to do anything to make any kind of an industry out of it. So to me, I think if you're going to go with the two-casino amendment, I think you've already bought yourself a failure. And I really don't think this is going to solve any problems at all for us. And I'm...my guess is that there will probably be a petition amendment that will win on the ballot. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Mines.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, colleagues. I'm going to stand in...rather than speak to the amendments, I stand in support of LR 14CA. I told Senator Schimek, seems like a year ago that I supported putting the initiative on the ballot, let people vote on it, and at the ballot box I will vote against gambling. Now when we did...she did come around and ask how many casinos are you comfortable with? And I said, listen,