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

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SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Senator Janssen, members of the Legislature. We had a gambling proposal before us a year ago, and we did advance it, put it to the voters, and it was denied. But we were willing to put that out there to provide, some said, entertainment for our people, which would have taken money out of our own citizens, and where it would have gone is certainly up to, I suppose, the individual, whether it would have gone to Nevada, would have stayed in the state, where it would have gone. But Nebraska has very few things for outstate people to come in as tourists. The best thing about tourist dollars is that they're dollars from another state, they're dollars you wouldn't have here if you didn't have a tourist attraction. I think it's worth investment to develop some tourist attraction, that Cabela's, be that amusement park, whatever the circumstances. I met the senator who came up with the Kansas STAR financing at a conference several years ago, and he told me about it, as a matter of fact, sent up a copy of their bill, which I have somewhere in my office, that has been there for about three or four years. And I always thought that this would be a great opportunity. And yes, I have driven by the facility down in Kansas and watched it grow and watched it expand. And a year ago, I took my entire family down there and we spent a weekend at Grey Wolf Lodge which I'd recommend to anybody. But while I was down there, I have a habit of getting up early in the morning, and so I did that and walked around the parking lot, and looked. And really, about one-third of the cars were from Nebraska, one-third. And they went down there to spend the same thing, a weekend or at least a night, and then to have this huge water park inside the lodge. And then, yes, there's a Famous Dave's there, that is owned, by the way, by an Omaha individual. He's building a couple more down in Kansas City. And then Nebraska Furniture Mart, another Omaha operation, Nebraska operation; just doing fantastic. Back then, I know for the first nine months that Cabela's was open, the average purchase, per person, was 200 bucks per person. So there's that kind of demand for that operation. Now between Omaha and Lincoln and, yes, Council Bluffs, we're approaching a million people, a million populace, which is a fair amount of people