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

March 27, 2006 LR 259

just wanted to state my support for the Environmental Trust Fund. And they've done so much good. There are times that they've given some money to something that I wouldn't have, but I think overall, they've just really done a great job in helping the environment in our state. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kremer. Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature. I'll give you a little background on Senator McDonald's bill. The General Affairs Committee heard the resolution on February 13. The committee did not advance that bill at the first executive session, and in fact, was one vote short of being IPPed. A special executive session was called to advance that resolution in the same week. At the hearing there were several proponents testifying from the treatment industry. who testified about funding shortages and increased gambling. Well, I don't know whether the lottery has increased in the gambling that much, but there is an increase in gambling in this state from other sources. The LR would amend the constitution. to give the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund the first \$1 million, instead of the \$500,000 of lottery proceeds, after the initial expenses. The constitutional revision is necessary because the statutory changes to the lottery distribution would not be constitutional, and we've heard a lot about that today. Because of the State Fair bill, which was LR 209, which changed the language of the constitution to require a specific distribution mechanism for how the lottery revenue is to be allocated, the Attorney General has said that any attempt to transfer more funds than what was allowed in the constitution would not be constitutional. This LR states that the resolution is to be submitted to the public on November 2006, general election. The current distribution scheme is \$500,000 to the compulsive gamblers, with 44.5 percent to the Nebraska Environmental Trust, and 44.5 percent to education, as directed by the Legislature, as directed by the Legislature; 10 percent to the Nebraska State Fair Board, which at that time...you remember when we were arguing the Nebraska State Fair Board, putting that...it had to be a constitutional amendment to change that. And in my opinion, at that time when we talked about the State Fair, I didn't think the people of this state