

wish to speak to this amendment? Seeing none, do you have closing, Senator Will?

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, I urge your favorable consideration of the Hall amendment. I think it has been debated thoroughly, we know what the amendment is about. It's simply, aside from some of accusations I guess that have been made, my purpose in offering the amendment is a very simple one. This is an amendment that again would simply freeze the tax rate for a county owned racetrack at the current level. The purpose of the amendment is to give some degree of certainty to the people that are purchasing the bonds that would allow Douglas County to purchase the Ak-Sar-Ben facility. It's kind of the final piece in the puzzle of LB 1061. The general purpose of the bill as you recall is to allow a private operator to operate the racetrack for Douglas County. It's not about hot dog feeds, it's not about people that I view as my social betters, this is about making sure that now, once Douglas County has made the decision to purchase a racing facility that that racing facility can be operated in the best manner possible, that it can be purchased in a responsible manner using revenue bonds that we are recognizing by adopting this amendment that the state of horse racing right now in Nebraska is not where we thought it would be when the tax structure that this changes was put into place, that simply it would recognize the current state of the horse racing industry and should that state improve, should revenue start coming in beyond what we expect, I will be the first one to come back in here and say we need to go back to a tax structure that taxes a little bit more of that parimutuel revenue. But for now I think that recognizing that Douglas County has made the decision to purchase the Ak-Sar-Ben facility, recognizing that they need to sell the bonds, recognizing that the people who buy the bonds need to have a stable revenue structure in order to be guaranteed of a return on those bonds, the Hall amendment is the way to go with respect to parimutuel tax in Nebraska. It's not a gross departure from where we have been. It simply is saying, we're going to keep the rate where it is right now, we're not going to phase in a higher rate because racing has not gotten to the point where it can support that higher rate. With that I would ask for a call of the house and would urge you to vote favorably for the Hall amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Will. We have a request for a call of the house. All those in favor please vote aye,