

this amendment does is it provides that 2 percent of the gross proceeds that currently the cities create, as a result of their keno operations, would be kept with the cities to maintain their parks, to maintain their streets, to maintain any particular pro...any particular project that would involve community betterment. It's...the keno operations throughout the state have been...have been successful, and the reason they have been successful is because that is what people want to gamble on. It's a competitive market when it comes to the gambling market. When we first originated horse racing, back in the thirties, it was the only way to gamble in the State of Nebraska, so it was very popular. Through the years we've added different types of gambling, and we have let the free market economy be the sole discerning per...way in which the individuals chose on how to gamble. We have bingo, pickle cards, city and county keno, horse racing, and it's important to remember, and it was pointed out in a handout that we had here showing the amount of wagering by each type of gambling, that the amount of money that the State of Nebraska actually takes in as a result of this type of gambling, last year, keno operations throughout the state brought in \$1.1 million to the state General Fund. Last year the horse breeding industry, the horse racing industry brought in \$153,000, and I don't know how much more it's going to end up costing the State of Nebraska. Under this bill we would take away the \$1 million subsidy that currently exists in our statute, that \$1 million subsidy that goes to the horse racing industry. I have no qualms about having horse racing in this state. We allow it by our Constitution, we allow it by our statutes, we encourage it through a number of different types of statutory language, such as LB 1061, which it looks like it will pass into law, and we encourage this type of gambling. But when we come to the subsidization of it, the \$1 million I don't feel is a proper use of our public funds. I feel that the money can be better spent with local government helping to keep our property taxes down, because this money goes directly to helping to keep property taxes down in the form of projects that would otherwise have to come out of the General Funds of these cities. I would urge the adoption of this amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Abboud. We're looking for...Senator Lynch and Senator Conway, would you please check in. We'll now proceed with the vote on the Abboud amendment. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Senator Abboud.