

bill. When I look back on some of the debate we've had in the last few days on issues that were amendments that were not priority issues that got hours of debate because of the body's indulgence and because the Speaker was willing to do that, and I appreciate that, he has every right to do that. All I ask now is for a similar type of treatment on this proposal. I do not intend to delay debate. I would like a vote on my amendment. I would like to deal with the other amendments that are pending, but I would like to see this proposal be given adequate time for debate, because I believe it is necessary. I believe it is necessary because I look at what is taking place just to our east. I have the district that is closest to Council Bluffs, Iowa. I border Council Bluffs, Iowa on the east. I watch what is taking place, I can see from my home where they are going to build the Harvey's Casino, and I would argue that there is going to be a convention center there and we won't need to spend a half cent sales tax in Omaha to renovate the auditorium because Harvey's is going to put in a convention center over there and we can forget about it. The problem I have with dealing with this issue today, at this time, is that we have a general election that is coming up in November. If we do not take the opportunity at this point to offer to the people an opportunity to vote on this, at least vote on it here as a...take a public policy stand on it once and for all, I believe we have lost that opportunity forever, because at that point in time the individuals who say it is too late, we need not address this issue, are probably right. If we don't get an opportunity to vote this up or down, submit it to the people, have them vote on the issue of gaming in this state and what its future will hold, I believe that we have forever closed that door. And I think that is clear when you look at what is taking place to our east, to our west, to the north, and to the south. I would ask that you move, it takes three-fifth vote, to overrule the Speaker's agenda. I do not do this lightly, it is an issue that I believe deserves debate, at least as much debate as some of the amendments that have been offered that did not have priority status as designated by those individual members. This is my priority bill. I would again ask the body to support this motion. I don't expect that this debate would take too long, I would not draw it out, I would ask that you would support this motion. Thank you, Mr. President.

**SPEAKER WITHHEM:** Thank you, Senator Hall. With the body's indulgence, I'd like to address the issue as the Speaker. I view it as akin to a motion to indefinitely postpone a bill,