

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

March 4, 1999

LR 29

resolution? Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I will be fairly brief, but I just wanted to hold up, these are the master agreements that were done. That just shows how thick these are in this tobacco settlement, and I'm sure some of you, as I have, have had lots of background information on this. Suffice it to say that I feel quite strongly, as Senator Jensen indicated too, that the feds should keep their hands off of this money. If I recall correctly, several years ago, when this was initiated by state attorney generals, and all the work was done by the attorney generals, particularly one from North Dakota, the feds appeared to have no interest in it. Now that the attorney generals have had...and I commend them for that because I guess privately I would have thought that their pursuit was somewhat fruitless, too. But, as it's turned out, they have been successful. And now the federal government sees fit to get their share and...whatever that may be, and actually more than their share, from my viewpoint, because they did none of the background work. And I think I strongly support this resolution for that reason. I am writing a letter following up phone calls on this issue to all our congressional delegation. I actually think that none of you can do too much in this line yourself, not only writing our own Nebraska delegation, but those across the country that you may or may not have a connection to. One of our helps or aids in Congress, I do believe, will be those legislators that have a background in state government and will be more sympathetic to local and state government issues than might otherwise be the case. In other words, this is a state activity that has been successful. And I think that the states are entitled to have the fruits of their work. And I would urge adoption of this resolution.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Before we continue the discussion, Senator Hilgert announces that he has, in the north balcony, 27 Creighton University exchange students from Shizuoka, Japan. Shizuoka is the sister city of Japan...of Omaha. Would you all please stand and be recognized and welcomed by your Legislature. Continuing discussion on the resolution, Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I