

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

February 12, 2001 LB 839, 840

morning and good morning, members of the body. Every day tens of thousands of Nebraskans receive telephone solicitation calls, often at the dinner hour, urging them to switch their credit card or to switch their long distance or to by this or that, and these calls in many respects, in many instances, are regarded as a nuisance and harassment by those who receive the calls. And I can tell you, from having worked about 20 years on consumer protection issues, there's no issue of greater importance to consumers than finding some way to find relief from these telephone calls. LB 840 is modeled after legislation introduced in the previous Legislature by Senator Beutler, and a similar bill offered by Senator Vrtiska in this session. Unfortunately, neither of those legislative efforts have proved to be successful. I have another approach to this problem. It's embodied in LB 839, which has not yet been heard by the Transportation Committee, and I'm hoping for a favorable result there, but it takes a completely different approach. So, in light of the fact that my LB 840 is so similar to that offered by Senator Beutler last year and to the bill offered by Senator Vrtiska this year, which have not been successful, I now move to withdraw that bill so that I can focus my energies on LB 839, which I think will be a more constructive and hopefully more fruitful effort to address this terrible problem of abusive telephone solicitation calls. With that, I move the withdrawal of LB 840.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Foley. To speak to the motion to withdraw, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I dashed up here because I read on the agenda what Senator Foley was going to do. I applaud him for it. This goes a step beyond what I'm always saying committees should do, that is to kill these bad bills, and it's not necessarily saying his is bad but he has a wise reason for pulling it out. So I will say that what he has done is not to kill a bad bill but rather to abort a bill, and for that I am grateful.

SENATOR COORDSEN: No further debate. Did you wish to say anything in closing on your resolution (sic), Senator Foley?