

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

March 13, 2003 LB 99, 726

is something that can do us a lot of good in western Nebraska. Our area out there has to promote tourism. At the present time, with the economic situations we have out there, we're working on economic development, but usually we have trouble finding light industry to come into the areas. We have tourists coming through all of the time. We have areas with plenty of scenery to work with. So whatever we can do to promote our tourism I'm sure will help our area considerably. And I thank you.

SENATOR ENGEL: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Tyson.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Senator Engel. Ladies and gentlemen, this is a tax paid by strangers. And it is a tax that I have paid all over the United States when I was traveling commercially. I can tell you that never once, never once did I contemplate sleeping in the back seat of my car rather than pay the levy. To me, this is a very simple question. We may not want to tax ourselves, but I think taxing strangers is perfectly fine, and I intend to support this bill. I urge every one of you to support this bill. Thank you very much.

SENATOR ENGEL: Thank you, Senator Tyson. Senator Erdman, you are recognized.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I rise, I believe, in opposition, because I still have some concerns that were pointed out in LB 99. But I would like to comment on just what Senator Tyson has said, that this is a tax paid by strangers. Well, not necessarily, because I don't see in the bill where it says that this tax only applies to people that don't live in Nebraska or people that don't live in my county, because obviously we can't write a law that way. This would also apply to everybody else in the state of Nebraska who's looking to do a convention in the great town of Sidney, if that county decided they were going to raise their local tax 2 percent. An organization is going to pay that as well. Those are citizens of the state of Nebraska. So again, it's another tax, focused on a different idea. I'm not saying that what Senator Louden is proposing isn't laudable. I think it's important that we do things in the state of Nebraska to promote tourism. I...fantastic. I can give you a couple of great