

discuss the amendment, followed by Senator Langford.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the body, I very much would like to convey that I feel exactly as Senator Frank Korshoj in the statements that he's made. Those of us that are in outstate Nebraska, who are not on the well-traveled route of Interstate 80, or where we have lots of tourist attractions, have small motels that are struggling to survive. And, in fact, I have some letters here from some folks in my district where one motel, because the people that bought it from the owners went into bankruptcy, and it was referred back to them again, so now they are saddled with it. The comments that have been made to me by people across the state and in my district are three-fold. First of all, the motel people say we're already having to pay it or add an 8.5 percent tax to our guest lodging bill. And then from those folks that are the guests in these kinds of motels, these people are, from the letters that I've received, truckers and sales persons who live in Nebraska, who stay overnight in the little motels off the main roads, and they are going to be the ones that are going to be paying the additional cost. Finally, I get down to the point that Frank made, which I would like to reiterate, and that is I did not support the cigarette tax, as you remember, either because I think it's unfair to tax one segment and then use that money from that one group of people to pay for what we consider to be important needs for the rest of the state. The folks that are in the small motels are saying to me, if this is for capital improvement, I'd certainly like to do some capital improvements on my own motel but I can't afford to. So I'm like him, I don't know whether I could even support this amendment, and definitely I don't support the concept of the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Langford, would you care to discuss the amendment?

SENATOR LANGFORD: Mr. President, colleagues, this is the amendment I was interested in earlier. I feel that the amendment would preclude use by any of the other counties in the state. Buffalo County has a lot of tourists, people coming in, and we are continually striving to develop the Nebraska art collection, several other things that we could certainly use some money for. So I feel that if we are going to have the additional tax that the county should have the option to use it, if they so choose. So I must...I do not support the amendment.