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Senator Landis...both amendment and LB 505. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Matzke.

SENATOR MATZKE: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I, too, live along the borders of Nebraska. My district borders both Colorado and Wyoming where the cigarette tax is lower than in Nebraska, so I'm concerned about the concept of bootlegging and smuggling of cigarettes. And I have studied this to try and determine if it is a real issue; is it a valid concern for us or not. And we have heard a couple of speakers here today express their concern about it. I, personally, don't think that it's a valid objection to this bill or a valid objection to increasing the cigarette tax, and I challenge you to perform a little test that I performed. Go to a convenience store and watch people buy packages of cigarettes. Over 90 percent of them are going to buy it a pack at a time. They could walk across the street and go to a grocery store and buy it by the carton and they could get a reduced price. Package of cigarettes is about \$3, carton's about \$25, so right there, they could walk across the street and save some money. But we hear speakers here today say, oh, well, if we raise the tax on cigarettes they're going to drive to Iowa, they're going to drive to Colorado, they're going to drive to Wyoming. I don't think that is a valid argument and I represent a district that would be more concerned about that than most of the rest of you. I support this bill. I support it because I think it would achieve a lessening of tobacco use by 13 and 14 and 15-year-olds. That's what we're really talking about. They're too young to legally buy cigarettes anyhow. They certainly are not going to be the ones that are going to be crossing the state lines. I talked to some people from inside the beltway in Washington to validate some information that's in a letter that maybe most of you have received from the American Cancer Society. It points out that the District of Columbia increased its cigarette tax by 65 cents a package 5 years ago. The District of Columbia, of course, shares a border with Virginia and a lot of people actually live in Virginia and commute into DC, and despite the fact that the District of Columbia shares a border with Virginia where the tobacco tax, get this, is only 2-1/2 cents, only 2-1/2 cents, they saw no significant decline in cigarette consumption, while