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SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Jensen, your light is next.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I have not spoken on this issue since it's come up. And I think there's a few things we need to think about. First of all, whether we want to think about it or not, we are in a very competitive business, the state of Nebraska is. And there are many issues that come into being as to what makes a state grow. Certainly, schools, and we're very fortunate, here in Nebraska, to have very good schools; the environment, both the natural environment and the business environment, we are in an area where there's a strong work ethic, so that the productivity of the individuals who are here in Nebraska really show to businesses that you get a...a day's work for a day's pay. Omaha is located very well. We have airlines now coming into the city that you can leave at six o'clock in the morning and be in Washington, D.C. at eleven o'clock. You can fly nonstop to the west coast. You can fly nonstop to Phoenix. We have excellent connections to other cities. The convention tourism business is big business and, if we sit idly by and do nothing, it passes us by. And so I think that we have an opportunity here to bring business that will, not only help Omaha, it will help the entire state. About three weeks ago, I think it was, maybe it was four weeks ago, I was in Salt Lake City, to attend that American Telemedicine Association meeting, three days. I got my Mastercard bill and totaled it up, \$525 in three days. That did not include the air fare, that was for the conference, that was the hotel, that was for food. And anybody who stays one night in Nebraska, it's about a hundred dollar bill, whether that be in Kearney, whether that be in Lincoln, or Hastings, or Omaha. So any time you can bring somebody and have them stay in your state, there are dollars that are spent, there are dollars that are left there. And also, when you have a facility, and when you're located well that people can fly in, drive in easily, you are going to get conventions. Again, this American Telemedicine Association, next year they're going to be in Phoenix, the year after that they'll be somewhere else. They don't go to the same place, and Omaha, again, is located well and I think we can get that piece of that tourism business. I've talked to many of the people who produce the flat shows, as they're called, whether