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SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR ERDMAN: ...in essentially adding on to this existing facility with a hotel, there would be nothing to prohibit them from using those dollars to do that then.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Right now, but I'd be glad to work with an amendment with you to alleviate your concerns.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Sure. And I appreciate that. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Louden.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker and fellow senators. If you notice in the bill, the way it's written, there are actually two different funds. One of them is to be used to promote visitors to come to the county and to the area as tourism, and the other one is the fund that it's in question now. What we're trying to add to the bill would be to have a Promotion Fund to improve facilities for tourism in the area. I think it would probably be up...there's a board that's appointed to do this type of thing and I think it would be up to them to decide what facilities they were going to improve and that part. I don't see where they would be any place where they would be running in competition with some of our local lodging facilities, such as your motels and hotels. It is a way that counties can export some of their tax base. We need to promote our tourism, especially in the western end of the state and all up and down Interstate 80. By doing so, why, we can export it. We can have people that come through help us pay for some of our facilities, which needs to be done, especially in the northwest corner of the state. We need to have these facilities promoted statewide and I, myself, believe that this is something that I would well support. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Hartnett and Beutler.