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SENATOR LOUDEN:    ...decide what they are.

SENATOR CHAMBERS:    ...you've taken more time than I usually allow people, because you're new. But I'm going watch you from now on. You're cagey. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK:    I'm sorry. Your time is up.

SENATOR CHAMBERS:    (Laugh) Yes.

SENATOR CUDABACK:    Sorry about that. Senator Mines.

SENATOR MINES:      Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members. I'm almost tempted to give my time to Senator Chambers, but that won't happen yet. I rise in opposition to this bill, and for a number of reasons. And this flies in the face of what I believe, that local control is vitally important. In this case, it's different. It's different to me and different to those areas, or those people that I represent. I truly believe that this is a regressive tax. We are in fact adding another 2 percent that may or may not be used by counties. My experience has been that it will certainly be used by most counties if they're...if it's open for them to add to their base. I originally supported this bill, until I found out what it would do to constituents in the city in which I live, Blair. Let me give you just a little example of the taxes on the four small...you know, four small hotels and motels in my community. Right now they do pay the 1 percent tax for state tourism promotion...or collect. Excuse me, they're collecting this; they're not paying it. Secondly, they pay a 2 percent county tourism tax that's already in place in Washington County. In Blair...excuse me, we have a 5.5 percent sales tax that's collected. In Blair, we also have a 1.5 percent sales tax that is collected. And if LB 726 were to be enacted, we would have another 2 percent that would be applied to this bill. That would give a small community a tax of 16 percent on lodging. And I was glad to hear Senator Louden say that Douglas County is irrelevant in this conversation, because they're already at 16.48 percent. In the figures I show here, that's number five...that's the fifth highest tourism tax on localities in the country. In Blair, we're not a destination spot. The hotels are used by people that come to visit the