

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 13, 2003 LB 726

Joslyn Art Museum, the Omaha Symphony, all sorts of different things that draw people to the community. And that was their prerogative under the law to do that. But other communities also have attractions that they need...they may need to keep in...keep up and to build. And this would give them the same prerogative that Douglas County and the city of Omaha has. Tourism is extremely important business. I'm...been long convinced that for the rural areas of the state, the need to develop supplemental forms of revenue to augment their agricultural base is one of the most important things that we can do. And so it's ironic, in a sense, that the county that is best off in the state and least needs the tourism is the one who has been given the statutory facility to promote tourism more than those areas of the state that actually need the tourism more. In any event, as a state we are about eleventh from the bottom in terms of the tourism...the tourists that we attract here as a percentage of the total tourism dollar in the United States. So we're not a large state, obviously, but we have a lot of interesting places.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And we can do better than being eleventh from the bottom. And I think this mechanism is one way that we can improve the situation. I, for one, hope you will support Senator Louden's bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Mr. Clerk, item on the desk?

CLERK: Senator Smith would move to amend with FA1197. (Legislative Journal page 844.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Smith, you're recognized to open on your amendment, FA1197.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise for the purposes of discussion. I filed this amendment, and I do intend to pull it, but I think it needs to be discussed, especially when we talk about local control. You say, we need to support this because of local control, and I understand that,