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increase is less. If anyone in this body believes that by increasing a tax on people that stay in hotels and motels is going to enhance tourism or economic development in all of Nebraska, doesn't understand tourism or economic development. You're increasing the cost of visiting your locations. And, quite frankly, in...I would believe that in Senator Louden's district that the amount of taxes that will be increased might not be sufficient to do a lot of good things that the people in that area might want them to do. I had stood in opposition to this in our...when we came to the General File because in my own town this, if this were allowed, my tax on lodging in my county would rise to 16 percent; would be among the highest in not only the state but in the country at 16 percent. And, as Senator Smith has already stated and quite well stated, you're taxing the rest of us here, folks. You're imposing a tax on people that come to your cities for conventions, come to your cities, and we are Nebraskans coming here. You're taxing us when we go to Kearney for regional meetings. When we go to Grand Island for regional meetings, you're taxing me. I'm paying your taxes. And I don't think it's a good idea to raise taxes on me or anyone else in this instance. You know, I guess I might pose a question. If 1 percent is good or 3 percent is good, why don't we just not have a cap on it? Let counties, because it is local option, why don't we just let them set the rate themselves? If in fact this is going to do so much good for our state, why not an unlimited amount of local lodging tax that can help our tourism and economic development? I think, Senator Smith, I'm going to support your amendment, but both yours and Senator Louden's are bad bills. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I yield back my time.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Mines. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. When you get your light on first sometimes you don't always think about everything you want to say, and I guess that's what happened to me this time. I'd just like to remind the body that the original language of the bill is permissive. In other words, if they want to go with 1 percent, they can go with 1 percent. If they want to go with 2 percent, they can go with 2 percent. So I really don't know that I even see the need for