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LB 726

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, I too all want to give some comments on this. I realistically think that the 1 percent, if a person went with this amendment with a 1 percent tax, if it is supported or if a resolution is supported by the local government, I think that's a very small amount and, realistically, I don't know what they could ever do in a community, you know, to improve, you know, tourism. But I think realistically with a 2 percent there's a very good possibility that some improvements could be made to attract people to their area, to their county and to their city. I don't know why a community wouldn't pass a resolution to do this because it isn't the people that are in the country that are staying in the county. What the county is doing is asking that a tax be levied so that they can improve the things to attract people to their county so that they can have conventions and meetings and people will stay in their community, hopefully for at least one night. But I think this is...to counties, this is really a win-win situation. They can tax...they can put that tax on. They can get their area and city and tourism improved, which will in turn attract more people in the future. So I would oppose this amendment of AM1143, but I do support the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I rise in opposition to the amendment and in support of the bill. Again, as has been stated before, this is a local option. They have...communities now could set it, if this bill was passed, at 1 percent. This amendment simply is not needed. Folks, I don't know if you really realize that tourism is our number three industry in this state and that we need, in our local communities, the opportunity...we need that opportunity to have some additional dollars to promote those attractions to attract other people to come into our state. In Nebraska also, we have some of the lowest lodging rates now if you would compare those to other states and other areas of the country. So with that, I oppose the amendment, but will be supporting the bill. And I give the rest of my time back to the Chair. Thank