

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

May 21, 2003

LB 743

mechanisms already. We already offer a mechanism within the state, although maybe it's not widely advertised enough. But that could be remedied. Maybe that should be part of this bill. Again, the federal government has implemented a program, under pressure from the various states, to do this. You know, the federal government is giving this big tax break. And we have a senator who asked for some tax breaks, or some money to go back to the states, which, to me, actually kind of makes sense. But in a sense, isn't that kind of what we're doing here. We're saying to the federal government, all right, provide this service for us. We'll take it. What's wrong with that? What's wrong with saying to our citizens, hey, we solved the problem, and guess what? Better news yet, it didn't cost you any money, because the federal government set up this program. And again, I want to reiterate this, that 24 states had adopted statewide do not call lists prior to the advent of the federal regulations, and none have done it since. As a matter of fact, three states...one of the largest states in the country...have actually backed away from their legislation to wait and see what the federal government's rules are going to do, and what effect they may have. Senator Baker talks about, well, this doesn't impact intrastate calls. Well, the rule-making process is still going on. Maybe there's an option for us to...for Senator Baker or Senator Smith to petition the FTC or the FCC to make that part of their rules. I don't know. And I don't even know if that's accurate. But I guess even if they're not included, so what? Those people are our citizens. Those are our brothers, our sisters, our family members, our neighbors, that have jobs here. What one of you in here wouldn't be absolutely delighted to have some form of a call center come to your district? We put a call district...a call center up in Senator Cunningham's district. Now, that's an incoming call center. I'm not trying to say it's different. But that put thirty-some jobs in a community of 600 people. Man, what a boost to that community. And when we talk about, let's shut down intrastate calls, we're shutting down an industry. Now, I don't know if the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee had any testimony about what happens to the jobs that this bill is going to drive out of our state. But it cannot be insignificant. Communities are clamoring for these call centers. I know one of them closed out in Gering or Scottsbluff. And that was a...I