

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

March 11, 2005 LB 76

our statutes, because I think that the U.S. PATRIOT Act is overreaching and is one of the worst things that we've ever done as a government. We've infringed on people's rights through that act in ways that we haven't even contemplated yet. And I won't be voting for this, because I resent the fact that we, in a moment of fear, adopted such a statute. I resent the fact that we are compelled to put that into our state statutes, but that's the way it is. But I am comfortable that there's procedural due process here. And I think all of us should be concerned that our citizens' rights are protected in every regard. And, Senator Baker, I appreciate what you're doing. If I implied that I'm about protecting lawbreakers, you're wrong...or, I apologize that you took it that way. But I am about making sure that the state, or bureaucrats, no offense to our agency folks, don't arbitrarily take somebody's way to make a living, take their livelihood. I think that's improper. Senator Baker, if you'd like the balance of my time, you're welcome to it.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Bourne. I think we're on the same page here. I am not...this is distasteful to me, too, Senator Bourne.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BAKER: This U.S. PATRIOT Act leaves a poor taste in my mouth. But quite honestly, Senator Brown was pointing out, and I also had pointed out, we...there are serious sanctions. If we do not adopt these federal regulations, go along with this, number one, our CDL HAZMAT program goes out the door. We can't get a HAZMAT endorsement for a CDL operator in the state of Nebraska. We have 16,000 people with these...16,000 drivers with HAZMAT endorsements. It also costs us money when they start sanctioning us at 5 percent the first year, 10 percent each year thereafter. Pretty soon, we're clear out of the program. And I'd like to stand up and say, no, we're not going to do this, but, quite frankly, I don't think that's a responsible reaction. We've worked with TSA, our Department of Motor Vehicles, the National Trucking, our State Trucking Association. They've done this. They've gotten it to the best form they possibly can, in their opinion. They testified for