

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

April 7, 2005

LB 480, 730

establishments, because I do believe that a vote is important, and if a city does that, if a community does that, that should be honored. So I believe in my amendment you'll see that that's been answered. But I had this bill. I think it was LB 730. It was introduced. We had a hearing in the Judiciary Committee. And we had individuals who are bar and restaurant owners who came in and talked about how they...Senator Combs, you are right, this is big government at its best. That will be the theme for this morning--big government. Anyway, we had a whole host of bar and restaurant owners come in to the Legislature, come in to the Judiciary Committee hearings. I want to say there was a dozen of 14 of them. These people have put their life savings into this establishment. And in their opinion, and I tend to agree with them, their way to make a living was basically taken away from them by the city council in Lincoln. And I'm going to get...I have some of the testimony from them that talked about how much money they've lost. We had one gentleman who bought a cigar bar a couple of years ago. And I can't tell you what the name of the cigar bar was, but the name of the establishment was "Bill's Cigar Bar." I've got the "Bill" part wrong, but it definitely said "Cigar Bar" in the name of this establishment. He came in and he said that he used every penny that he had to purchase this establishment. He paid a premium for it, because it had some highly technical air exchange devices. And he said that he paid a premium for it because of this. It was outfitted perfectly for a cigar bar. He says you can sit next to a cigar smoker and not smell anything. He indicated his revenues are down 52 percent, 52 percent. Now, I don't understand, and I'm not saying this bill does this. I've looked at it. I don't believe that it would touch a cigar bar unless he serves food there. I don't know if he does or not. But I think that that almost defies logic, for a city council to take away...basically take away this gentleman's business. I can't imagine someone would go into an establishment called a cigar bar unless they were a cigar smoker or perhaps a friend or a spouse of someone who was. I don't understand why we feel it's okay for government to get that involved in people's lives, that you essentially take their savings account away from them, that you essentially take away their ability to make a living. It defies...