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LB 480

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Smith. The next speaker will be Senator Aguilar, followed by Senator Schrock, Preister, Thompson, Beutler, Redfield, Bourne, Janssen, and Price.

SENATOR AGUILAR: Wow! Thank you, Madam President. Members, first of all, let me start by saying thank you to Senator Thompson for having the perseverance to bring this important bill back to us. She's definitely concerned about the health of Nebraska and always has been. And I, like Senator Chambers, will never forgive her for leaving this body early. We need people of her caliber here in the Legislature to look out for people of Nebraska, even if she is considered big government at this point, big government, Senator Bourne. If you go into a restaurant and you serve tainted food, who do you expect to do something about that? I think it would be big government. We're very comfortable with that. Or if somebody contaminated a water supply, a private lake, who would we look to do something about that? It would be the government. And why is that? Because we have a right and we demand clean water. Why on earth shouldn't we demand and have the right to clean air? They spoke about the vocal minority. I disagree. I think the vocal minority are the smokers. If you do a survey of how many smokers there are in the state of Nebraska and how many nonsmokers, I can tell you who could win that one. They also smoke about...spoke about cigar bars and popping popcorn in bars, none of which applies to this bill. We need to stay focused on the legislation in front of us. None of that really matters. They're trying to make a case for big government. That doesn't apply here. That doesn't come into this legislation. Senator Bourne talked about 3,000 smoke-free bars or restaurants in Lincoln. Some of us nonsmokers could go to those. Number one, I don't think anybody should tell me where I can go or where I want to go. That would be big government. And what about the people that work in those bar...those restaurants? Do they matter? Probably mostly young women, and young women and secondhand smoke are 90 percent more likely to get breast cancer. Don't they matter for anything? Some would say, well, they could work somewhere else. That's not always necessarily the case. Some people work where they...close to home where they can get to, because maybe they don't have