

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

April 12, 2005      LB 480

opposition doesn't have those statistics either. I was a smoker for 25 years. I loved it. And I finally came to the realization that smoking is obnoxious and it was going to kill me, so I quit about 14 years ago. I grew up with parents that both smoked. That was the way it was. People smoked in the sixties and fifties. And today I find smoking objectionable. My family and I go to restaurants and we choose restaurants that either are no-smoking, or we sit in smoking sections and if it's too smoky we leave. My father died of lung cancer a year ago, and I've received more e-mail on this subject, pro and con; it's run at about 60 percent in favor of LB 480 and 40 against, and those that believe that I don't understand and that I need to change my mind because it's the socially correct thing to do simply don't understand. I side with restauranteurs. I side with those that run their own business and that want to decide if a legal activity, as in smoking, is permissible in their own private business. Whether I object to that activity or not is not part of the equation. In my opinion, this is about government intervention in private business, and it's a legal activity, and you can use all the statistics for and against but it all boils down to that, in my humble opinion. I will support LB (sic) 1052. It does make some sense, Senator Bourne. I will oppose LB 480 and if I have remaining time, Mr. President, I'd like to give that to Senator Bourne.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bourne, about 1, 40.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, I did forget to say a couple of things about what the amendment did, and I did want to get out on the record that...and I'm sorry, Senator Mines, that you're disappointed that this amendment wasn't punitive, although you're free to take it that way and vote in that manner. But I did leave out a couple things that the amendment does. The amendment also defines what a retail tobacco business means, and it's defined as a sole proprietorship, a partnership, a limited liability company, a corporation, or another entity in which the primary activity is the retail sale of tobacco, tobacco products and accessories; and (2) as to which the sale of other products or services is merely incidental. And the reason I added that is basically to exempt that out of the Clean Indoor Air Act, and I'll tell you