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there is an argument to be made for the laboratory of the cities and the counties. Why should they not be able to experiment, unless there's some overriding reason why not? Why should they not be allowed to experiment with their own rules with regard to smoking, with their own rules with regard to a whole large number of things? That's why we value local control, isn't it? In part because it allows for this laboratory at the local level; in part because local people understand the attitudes of local people better. The city council in the city of Lincoln perceived that the city of Lincoln, the people of the city of Lincoln, after a long and tedious argument over the consequences of prohibiting smoking in...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...public places, decided that notwithstanding the disadvantage that some of their businesses might suffer, they thought for their community overall they wanted to do this. And why should they not be allowed to do that? Anything that is meaningful in terms of commerce and in terms of competition among the states, within the states, is already handled by the interstate commerce clause in the United States Constitution. The needed uniformity in that particular area is protected by the constitution. I see no overbearing reason why uniformity should be required in this instance. And in fact, I think the far stronger argument, for many reasons, is that uniformity should not be required.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And most of all, it should not be prohibited from having a higher standard.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Preister, followed by Senator Schimek. Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all. I'm glad that we've gotten some humor out of the "friends all" on this discussion, when we haven't on some others. Just a little aside before I visit. When I first came down here, I was deciding how to address the body. And I knew that there were