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April 13, 2005 LB 480

amendments, I'm seeing the one that I thought probably perhaps that Senator Thompson had that would maybe improve it, but I have a real problem with the complete bill. I applaud her for bringing this forwards because I, myself, am not a smoker, I never have been, and I, far as I'm concerned, the state could be smoke-free or wherever. But I really do think that this is something that should be decided by the cities and towns and the proprietors involved. I don't think this is something that state law should get into. We, the first place I've ever went that was all smoke-free I think was in Fort Collins, Colorado, and in every restaurant there was smoke-free because the city of Fort Collins had designated it so. So I think, such as the city of Lincoln is started...has the lead...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SENATOR LOUDEN: ...in nonsmoking bars and restaurants and public places, I think this is something that should really be left up to the cities. I hope that this isn't a bill being brought forward so that some city someplace can say that they're not the ones that passed this legislation and blame it on the Legislature. We have to be very careful about that, that we don't take the blame for something that belongs for duties that other people have to have. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Smith, you're recognized to speak.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Madam President and members. As we are weighing our options here I again want to emphasize the fact that if we're going to have a smoking ban we better be straightforward about it and not start exempting this and that and encouraging various things to happen or discouraging various activities to happen within the private sector. But I think back about how...and it was stated earlier in this discussion on LB 480, that bowling centers have fallen under the Clean Air Act for several years. I would ask you how smoke-free you believe bowling centers to be. Oh, if you serve alcohol in bowling centers then there's a little less restriction, which is most bowling centers. I appreciate those few that are not complemented, if you will, with alcohol. But most bowling