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April 25, 2005 LB 70

any other professional organization who are part of the strong helmet laws coalition, I don't think he really meant that they are a...that any of them are "me too" organizations. These are all wonderful professionals. They're very valuable to Senator Smith's district and my district, to everybody in the state, and I know that's not what he meant. And I think Senator Baker pointed out earlier on in the debate that the proponents of this legislation could have put hundreds of people in the room to come to testify and they did not. And they had organization, they had ABATE. There were a strong number of professional organizations who did come in, in opposition, that group also, very clearly, knew that they could have brought in hundreds of people also and did not. But I don't think Senator Smith meant to impugn those groups who did not come in or to question the fact that they have less passion in their opposition to doing away with strong helmet laws. sensitive person and I know that. But I just wanted to make sure for the record and make it clear that, in my mind, I know that's not what he meant, and he respects the professionalism of these organizations, and as certainly all of us do. And I would yield my time back to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I'm a nice guy. What can I say, Senator Byars? And I certainly believe that there are a lot of professionals on this list of organizations, but I do want to call your attention to the fact that there were organizations who didn't show up for the hearing but added their name subsequently to the list of opposition. And I want to emphasize that it's a lot easier to do that politically and logistically rather than coming in early on. when you look at that long list, think of that and think of the fact that I deliberately limited testimony in favor of LB 70 in the interest of time. You all know that we could pack the hearing rooms on controversial issues and we can begin to repeat And at the end of the day, what have we done? ourselves. Repeated ourselves with the same information. That's why I wanted to hasten the committee hearing and carry on. But I will say that it was interesting that some of these organizations came in and equated an unhelmeted rider to a drunk driver, in