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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 500

mentioned already. But in Senator Landis' opening, he indicated that the Cabela's operation out in western Nebraska is the second leading tourism attraction of the state. Well, I have a Lincoln Journal Star April 21, 2005 newspaper article, and the source of the information is the Nebraska Division of Travel and Tourism. The number-one tourist destination site, I'm proud to say, in the state of Nebraska is the Henry Doorly Zoo, which is in District 7, and it's followed by Mahoney State Park and then Lake McConaughy. It lists the top 15 tourism sites in the state, and I'm not locating the Cabela's operation on here. And I asked Senator Landis what his source of information was, and he was going...I think, going to check on that. But in terms of setting the record straight, at least as it's produced by the Nebraska Division of Travel and Tourism, within the top 15 tourism sites within the state of Nebraska, it's not listing it, at this time anyway, the Cabela's operation, which, you know, may very well be a definitional problem in that Cabela's being a retail operation is not noted as a tourism destination. I'm very much supportive of tourism. I think the individuals in the tourism industry will tell you I'm a supporter. But in my mind, philosophically, I do not envision a retail operation, and as Senator Pedersen, Dwite Pedersen earlier spoke to, there are these operations in Kansas City and Des Moines and Minnesota; I don't envision these kinds of operations being...fitting my definition of a tourism asset for the state of Nebraska, or tourism site. I don't think that this operation will bring new money to the state of Nebraska, will not attract out-of-state money, in my mind. Again, as Senator Pedersen pointed out, these operations are already existing in our neighboring states. I doubt that we'll get families coming here from Des Moines or Minneapolis just to attend this retail operation. And so I just don't see this, the retail operation aspect of LB 500, fitting my definition of what a true and bona fide tourism asset is to the state of Nebraska. I'm also a bit bothered and concerned with the fundamental fairness issues with existing retailers, particularly those that are in the same line of...that offer the same line of merchandise, you know. And you know who I'm speaking of, and they've been very prevalent in the debate. This just strikes me as being fundamentally unfair, and it strikes me as providing a competitive disadvantage in the retail marketplace within the metropolitan area. You know, I'd be more