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FLOOR DEBATE

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to the state of Nebraska. But when that group of people goes to the new establishment, only 25 percent goes to it. So that's a real concern of mine. I'm not against competition. I love competition. But competition needs to be on a level playing field. That is what we have to go concerned about. Do we want to subsidize one that's in direct competition with another retail establishment that is paying its fair share to the state of Nebraska? That is the issue that I'm trying to deal with. So I just think that we don't have a level playing field, and it really does concern me. I don't mind Cabela's coming to Omaha at all. I would love to have them come there, but come there on their own, pay the whole sales tax bill to the state of Nebraska. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Beutler, followed by Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, I think Senator Stuthman raises a legitimate question and I think that probably many in the body are concerned about the competitive aspect of this, and who we're going to need to make a decision about whether somebody like Cabela's is unique enough and different enough that it maybe should be considered in a different category and in the way this bill is suggesting. But let me also point out for Senator Stuthman and others something that I think is important and that indicates that even if we pass this legislation, Cabela's isn't home free. They're going to have to convince the Governor and his board that this is indeed a unique situation that justifies competition favoring a competitor; and then beyond that, they're going to have to go to the local level and convince the local officials, the two bodies that will be dealing with this, that indeed they should do this. And beyond that, there are public hearings set up so that the local body and the state board are going to be aware of the feelings of everybody involved, and they're going to have to weigh the balances in making this decision. And this board, by the way, is headed up by the Governor, and I would think that the Governor is going to be very prominent and very on the public stage when this kind of decision is made. So a Governor is not going to take lightly the existence of competition out there and how competition may feel in any particular situation,