

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 10, 2005

LB 500

Pro Shops, is sitting over in Iowa with \$20 million of Iowa money to go there. The marketplace is not between a drug store and a hardware store and a sports shop and another operation that happens to sell either some hunting or fishing gear and Cabela's. The marketplace...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Time.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...is Iowa, Nebraska, West Virginia, and Utah.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Raikes, your light is next.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Madam President and members of the Legislature. I rise to support the motion to recommit to the committee. There's been several points made about this particular proposal, and one that I would agree with is that it is adventurous, newfangled, and so on. My own particular belief is that it is so in very much the wrong direction. Senator Landis has mentioned that we need to think about Cabela's decision-making process and where they might go and when they might go and which state and all that sort of thing. And I don't necessarily disagree with that, but I will suggest to you that you need to also be thinking about the state of Nebraska and the decisions that the state of Nebraska needs to be making, about the tax base we have, about protecting the tax base, about the things that we are required as a state to do--public education, corrections, all those things that you know about--and how we're going to have and maintain the funding to do those sorts of things. We have been in the game of business tax incentives for a number of years. It's been mentioned, and I'll just reemphasize, one of the reasons that we've stayed out of the retail area is that this is something that we have as a state to offer a business. They come here in order to attract retail traffic. The catch here is that somehow we're going to bring retail traffic from other states into Nebraska. We may do some of that, but you cannot ignore how much of the retail sales that are now going in Nebraska will simply be transferred to this new facility. The other thing I would suggest to you, and I don't remember having read carefully enough the safeguards, but what if you have a Cabela's that decides that a good