

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

May 17, 2005

LB 500

that are already there. Let me continue. It's a situation that galls competitor Poet and that Callahan recognizes as a key to the company's business strategy. Quote from Callahan: We probably would not be building the size of stores we are, with the amenities we have, if it were not for the public financing. And if we lost the amenities, we might lose that draw as a tourist attraction. It's a part of their scheme to bill themselves or, to use the language of the article, to pitch themselves as a tourist attraction. They are selling shares. The way to bolster the value of their shares that they're selling is to report, I guess, a lot profit or sound financial condition. And how do they do that? Well, the states are underwriting Cabela's. The states are feeding money into Cabela's, which is able to use that to increase the value...

SENATOR BAKER PRESIDING

SENATOR BAKER: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...of its shares which are sold wherever they're sold, and that is what this bill is doing. For the first time, large state incentives, subsidies, are being offered to a retail operation. How many people do you think would bypass Kansas City, where there's a Cabela's, to come to Omaha, Nebraska? This bill does not have a high priority except for its lobbyist and the Cabela's. It should not have...

SENATOR BAKER: Time, Senator Chambers. Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR BAKER: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to speak.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR BAKER: And this is your third time, they remind me. Second time, I guess. You had opened previously on your motion to reconsider, apparently.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, it just seemed like several times.  
(Laughter)