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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 500

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members, perhaps I'm confused, because I listened to what Senator Engel said and I'm not certain that debating the details of what may end up being a project, whether this passes or not, that Cabela's enters into is the appropriate thing. But I...it was my understanding that there was an element added to this bill in the committee amendment that required it to be 25 miles from a similar kind of activity just for the purpose of making sure that it wasn't...the retail competition was not a major factor; that it was more about the tourism piece of it. And so I guess I would ask one of the members of the Revenue Committee, and Senator Landis is...(laugh) Senator Chambers, you're multidimensional, I know, but you don't serve on every committee of the Legislature. Senator Redfield.

SENATOR BAKER: Is that a question for Senator Redfield?

SENATOR BROWN: Yes, could you respond?

SENATOR BAKER: Would you respond, please, Senator Redfield?

SENATOR REDFIELD: I will try.

SENATOR BROWN: As a part of the committee amendment, was there not a provision about a 25-mile sort of buffer zone?

SENATOR REDFIELD: Actually, there was a concern expressed in the committee by some members about the availability of an outfit like Wal-Mart to come into the project, and they want to make sure that there...if Wal-Mart existed anywhere within that radius, that that would eliminate them. And so it was a big box provision when they were looking at that. And Senator Raikes I don't believe is here either. Senator Janssen was there as well and he may remember, because I know he was concerned about big box coming into the 600-acre project. And so this was the language the committee came up with to eliminate that eventuality, but it actually wouldn't eliminate something like a Costco that doesn't currently exist in Nebraska. I believe it would just keep people out who had been here within the last two years.