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

May 18, 2005 LB 500

like to see entertainment kept in Nebraska, I would kind of like to see recreation kept in Nebraska, and I would like to see some of these places become destinations for people. It's not so much for me about people from other states coming to Nebraska, as keeping Nebraskans in this state. Cabela's is a homegrown company. I don't think they've ever asked for anything before. I'm not even sure what their role is in this, but they've been a good company for this state. They draw a lot of tourism to this state in an area of the state that I call very remote. If you go out on I-80 and the Panhandle, most of it is truck traffic. Yes, there's trucks that stop at Cabela's out there, too. I've told you that I'm going to take the grandkids to an amusement park when this session is over. Hey, we don't have a place to go in Nebraska, so we're going to Adventureland in Des Moines. I'd love to stop in Sarpy County. It would save miles; it would be cheaper. And I'm really concerned about Council Bluffs being an entertainment center for eastern Nebraska, and if we don't provide those same type of things when it comes to a water park, amusement parks, and yes, we've got Bass Pro over there across the river, going to build or building--I don't know what stage they're in. I'm sorry, but if we don't do this, Nebraskans are going to spend their entertainment dollars in Kansas City and Des Moines, and if you're in the western part of the state, you're going to go to Denver. That's just the way it is. And I'd rather see them spend that dollars in Nebraska. Yes, the sales tax, three-fourths of it goes back to help finance the projects. But at least they're not spending it in another state, and that's what they're going to do. I don't see how this can be a "lose" situation. Just take a good, close look at it. It's not taking any money up front. Certainly, Cabela's is a Nebraska company. They've put Nebraska on the map. They have two fine stores in this state that they've never asked for one dollar for, and I think it would be excellent to have a facility there. If you've never been down to the one in Kansas City, you can go there and be entertained for half a day and never buy anything. I know there are some of you that don't want to subsidize retail sales. Well, I guess I don't, either, but that's not what this is about. If I was going to build a sporting goods store, I would build it across the street from Cabela's. And by the way, there is a sporting goods store in Kearney that does quite well, and it's not Cabela's. And I see