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need to be made. We ought to have everything on the table. That's what I think we did too much of. I believe we need the bill. I think we need the retail ban and a study, but I don't think we need to go farther than that.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Beutler, your light is next.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Janssen, members of the Legislature, I was provided with some information off the Internet from a somewhat neutral source, but it was very interesting in the sense that it gave some perspective on what's going on and why this bill is in front of us now and what it's a part of in the national sense, and I just want to read you this CNN.com piece: A number of U.S. cities are becoming giant wireless hot spots where Internet users will be able to log on from the beach or a bus stop, a trend that's triggering a fierce backlash from telecom and cable giants. We look at this as another utility, just like water, sewer, parks and recreation that our communities should have, said Saint Cloud, Florida, mayor, who hopes to provide free wireless service, free wireless service to the entire city by the fall. At a conference last week, officials from dozens of local governments compared notes, et cetera, et cetera; discussed ways to counter lobbying of telecommunications giants that have sought to block them at the state level. Free and discounted wireless service can spur economic development, improve police patrols and other city services, and encourage Internet use in poorer neighborhoods, they said. Slightly more than 100 U.S. cities as big as Philadelphia and as small as Nantucket, Massachusetts, are setting up wireless networks. Conference organizer Daniel Aghion said close to 1,000 local governments worldwide have plans in the works. The trend has prompted an intense backlash from the large telecommunication and cable providers that sell most broadband access in the United States. At their request, 13 states have passed laws restricting cities setting up their own networks, and several others are considering such bans. Why, with so many other issues challenging municipalities today, why on earth should cities waste millions of taxpayer dollars to compete with carriers already offering high-speed Internet service, said a spokesman for the U.S. Telecom Association.