March 29, 2006     LB 99, 489

SENATOR CUDABACK:  Senator Synowiecki, would you yield?

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI:  Yes.

SENATOR SMITH:  Thank you, Senator Synowiecki.  I think Senator Jensen touched on the fact that there are 40 or 50 licensed installers statewide.  Is that true?

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI:  We don't have a licensure program so, therefore, they can't be licensed.  I think what he...I think, and I don't want to speak for Senator Jensen, I think he's speaking to the people that are currently in an apprenticeship program.  But the goal of the bill, Senator Smith, would be to expand the number of individuals that can get a licensure to perform this kind of work, so you just don't have union people and apprenticeship programs the only people doing this work.  It would expand the scope of individual that can participate in this craftsmanship.

SENATOR SMITH:  Okay.  Now, how many installers do we have in Nebraska right now?

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI:  You know, Senator Smith, I don't know.  I really don't know.  During the interim two summers ago, before the First Session of the Ninety-Ninth Legislature, I had a series of five or six meetings with individuals from churches, contractors, union/nonunion installers, access individuals, as far as the wheelchair lifts, which they're out of the bill now.  But we had a...Senator Smith, I probably partook in about in about 20 to 25 hours' worth of meetings with the working group of individuals that were intricately involved in the elevator industry in the state of Nebraska, and those impacted by it, including churches, and we came up with LB 99.  Now the amendment before you even narrows the scope more from what that conglomerate group of individuals I worked with.

SENATOR SMITH:  Okay, Senator Synowiecki, I appreciate the extended response and I perhaps would have some time later to yield to you.  However, let me express my concerns, and that is that the licensing effort stands to drive up the cost, remove