

January 28, 1992 LB 130

SENATOR CHAMBERS: All right. So you're concerned about what happens in the small town. Why then, if people in that small town make a determination that it is a hazard to their young people, and therefore they don't want the vending machines in those locations, because maybe they only have one cafe in town and there are families that go there, and they decide they don't want vending machines there where the children go. Why should they not be allowed to do that?

SENATOR MOORE: Well,...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is it because you don't want them to do it, or the tobacco industry, or the vending machine people don't want it?

SENATOR MOORE: Well, it makes it more uniform, so everybody has the same set of rules. I mean to me that makes some sense to me, but as I said, with the previous amendment adopted, I won't support the bill whether this amendment is adopted or not.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, we always hear an appeal to local control when it's convenient. You don't hear me talking about it. I'm the one who would talk about things being statewide, generally, like when we were going to make teachers be fingerprinted. I thought if that's the policy imposed by the state, it ought to be everywhere. but the body rejected it, allowing each local school district to do what it chose to do. Well now we're dealing with an issue of health, a health issue that is not one where people just feel bad, on occasion, but where people can literally die, and in fact do die. So if you have a locality, and the people are concerned about the welfare of the youngsters, and they want to put in place an ordinance that would shield them in these restaurants, Senator Moore says they should not be able to do that. And he is taking his position, not because his is a better way to ensure health, but because the...and he didn't say this, but I'm saying it, the tobacco industry wants to recoup at much as it can. The only reason for Senator Moore's amendment is to make cigarettes available under as many circumstances as possible, and available to minors. We're talking about minors. There are establishments and locations where vending machines are allowable. The ones that we're concerned about, those of us who oppose Senator Moore's amendment, this one and the one before, we're concerned about those that make the poisonous substance