

Nelson asks that tobacco settlement include state

From Staff Reports

Nebraska officials threatened to join 24 other states Wednesday in an attempt to receive part of a \$300 billion settlement from tobacco companies.

Gov. Ben Nelson and Nebraska Attorney General Don Stenberg wrote letters to the Phillip Morris Co. and RJR Nabisco, Inc. asking to be included in any settlement the tobacco companies pay to other states.

The two companies met last week with attorneys general from eight states to talk about protection from lawsuits over smoking-related illnesses.

In return, the companies would pay \$300 million in settlements and reduce their advertising, especially those using tobacco icons Joe Camel and the Marlboro Man.

If the companies do not include Nebraska in an out-of-court settlement, the state will file a lawsuit against Phillip Morris and RJR Nabisco.

The letters stated Nebraska had not filed any lawsuits against the companies because of the enormous legal fees involved.

"We do not wish to clog the courts with additional litigation or incur substantial legal expense unnecessarily," the letter stated. "However, we have an obligation to Nebraska's taxpayers to recover Medicaid expenses when possible."

ASUN takes responsibility of alerting students to rapist

ASUN from page 7

and posted around the UNL campus today.

"Our big goal is to make sure everyone is aware of this," Hoffschneider said.

Also discussed was the possible beverage alliance, which will bring monetary support to several targeted UNL programs.

Melvin Jones, vice chancellor for business and finance, updated the senate on progress made in talks with both the Pepsi and Coca-Cola bottling companies regarding an exclusive beverage contract.

These "pouring rights" would guarantee one bottling company that only its products would be sold on the UNL campuses. In return for this exclusive right, the bottling company would provide the university with monetary support for a number of programs.

Those programs, which would include student support, scholarships, technology advances and faculty development, were decided upon by officials from the bottling companies and university administrators, both of whom conducted a variety of surveys on campus.

Jones said he and other administrators are currently completing final negotiations with the bottling companies, which were looking for a university with an "international reputation" to distribute their products.


The results of these negotiations are planned to be presented to the NU Board of Regents at its meeting on June 21, Jones said.

"We are very, very close," Jones said. "There will be quite a few enhancements (to the university), but it's going to be a decision of the Board of Regents."

In other ASUN news:
 ■ Senate Bill No. 1 was passed unanimously. The bill officially approved several campus organizations: Alpha Phi Omega, the Residence Hall Association, Speech Communication Association Student Club and Tabernacle of Grace for All Nations Christian Fellowship.

■ Senate Resolution No. 1, which recognized Denise McLain for her service as assistant director of Student Involvement, also was passed unanimously. McLain is resigning to take a position at Gallup, Inc.

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