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accomplish this. It is for that reason that they dropped the consideration and continue to have those same objections to it. For that, I have asked that the bill be returned and that we strike the Chambers' amendment and leave the bill in its original form. I guess that is all I have time for for the moment. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CLARK: You have more time if you need it. He just gave you five minutes and you had ten to open. Did you need more time? All right, fine. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I think what Senator Carsten has said should give everybody pause and we should consider whether the reasons that have been given by the Department of Revenue are valid, and when I say whether they are valid, I mean are they valid reasons for striking this amendment and not placing these taxes on other tobacco products than cigarettes. If you agree with what Senator Carsten has said the Department of Revenue gave him, you will return the bill and you will strike the amendment. If you don't agree, you will not return the bill, the amendment will stay in place, and the Revenue Department will pursuant to statute carry out the directive, establish the means and the machinery for collecting this tax, and put the money in the general fund. It is not often that you find a Legislature and a Department of Revenue turning its back on revenue. It would be somewhat disappointing to me to see this amendment, pardon the pun, go up in smoke but I know that the tobacco lobby does have some influence. I know they have been calling a lot of you. Why even in my office there are a lot of messages from anonymous retailers of tobacco products emphasizing from your district who don't like this amendment, talking about me, but they don't leave their names, and some guy called me today from someplace and told me his name, but I didn't remember, it didn't make any difference, told me how upset all the people are in my district, and I didn't know there is as many chewers, dippers, and spitters of tobacco in my district as this man indicated, but if there are, they could drown me in tobacco spit, in tobacco juice, for doing what they don't like me to have done. I don't have any great amount of my ego or my spirit wrapped up in this amendment, so if you return the bill and strike the amendment, I won't even say it is because of the tobacco lobby. I didn't hear one statement from Senator Carsten as a justification for what he is doing based on anything that the tobacco lobby has told him. However, they did make a paper available to some people and they acknowledged that this type of tax does exist in 20 states or so and that in about 15 of them it covers as broad a