

addicting these people, maybe without their knowledge and then they get hooked and they start buying it and using it and eventually in many cases they end up with some sort of cancer, perhaps a loss of life. Now in my estimation it is good public health policy to recognize that on occasion our adults are subjecting themselves adversely to health risks and sometimes we take steps to try and diminish that. We're not stopping them from buying the product. They still have that right. If they want to go out and try it and like it, they can do that, but as far as the free sampling, I think it's the wrong thing to do and it ought not to be continued and I just feel that way very strongly. I oppose the amendment and I'd offer the rest of my time to Senator Dierks.

PRESIDENT: Okay, Senator Dierks, you have about three and a half minutes on his time, on Wesely's time.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Mr. President, members of the body, I just have to tell you what this amendment does. This amendment just guts the bill. It leaves the statutes exactly as they are today without the passage of this bill. So, in essence, it does what the tobacco industry has been after all the time, killing the legislation. They want nothing to do with this. All we're talking about is greed on the part of the tobacco industry. That's the whole essence to the problem. If we adopt this amendment, it just leaves it exactly as it was today. What we have done in committee, what we have done yesterday on the amendment is done for naught because this amendment that we're talking about today will leave it exactly as it is right now. We have in the statutes that it is illegal to pass this stuff out to minors. It doesn't work. It has not worked and all the promises in the world by the people that they are not going to come back to the State Fair does not mean that that is going to happen. We have to go with total ban if we're going to be effective because it is not effective today. How is anybody going to be able to look at a youth and tell whether he is 18 or not? And how is anybody going to be able to look at a youth and ask him if he is 18 and know he is not lying? There is only one thing we can do if we're going to be effective with this type of legislation, and that is to pass it as the bill was introduced. This amendment guts the bill. It just absolutely puts it back like it was, and if we adopt this amendment, the message we're sending to the youth of this state is we really don't care. We really don't care if you want to go out and get yourself afflicted with oral