

were the best and how we like to highlight on the minor drugs, cocaine and pot, and ignore the major drugs, alcohol and tobacco. So I was having trouble with this bill. Senator Dierks, Senator Nelson wanted me to do what was right and the bill was attempting to do what was fair, and when I originally supported their bill two years ago, after I voted that way I thought, well that was the right thing to do but it was probably not fair. It's a good thing to do and it really doesn't hurt anybody except maybe some very large corporations that can stand it, can take a hit every now and then and I really am not too concerned about the tobacco companies. I think they will fend for themselves. They're doing fine in the Third World now and trying to expand there. I don't think they are going to be at a lack for a market, so this amendment is my attempt to do what is fair and right. Tobacco is a drug. It is an addictive drug, it is a very addictive drug and I can testify to that fact. I smoke and I try to quit continually and I can't do it, can't do it. So it is a very addictive drug. So I think we do have the authority and the right and the ability to restrict access especially to minors. As Senator Landis has said on occasions, we can...we as adults are allowed to do stupid things, but we do have the ability and the authority to restrict minors from doing those same stupid things. So my amendment would make it illegal to distribute tobacco products as free samples, pretty simple. Treats everybody fairly, chew and cigarettes and pipe tobacco, all tobacco products. There would be no distribution of free samples. So if you want to do what is fair, this is an option for you. If you want to do what is right, it's another option for you. Should be easily accepted for the folks that wanted to...that were against LB 577. And two years ago when we were debating this bill, fighting the tobacco lobby, nobody wants to fight the tobacco lobby was a big question, was stated over and over on the floor. Well, the tobacco lobby only shows up every now and then and they don't have much of a presence in my district and I don't know that we grow too much tobacco down there, so I haven't been contacted by them as to how they feel on this. If their concern and interest is fairness, then they might support it. I'm not sure. As I said, I haven't been contacted. But I'd like you to consider this. If, indeed, the question is strictly fairness, this is a fair thing to do. We treat both products the same. And if, indeed, you believe that tobacco is an addictive drug and that we should do everything we can to keep it out of the hands of minors, then you can support this amendment. Please consider this as one of the options to the fairness issue of LB 577. I'd ask you for your support.