

1.5 to 6 percent. Montana is 2 to 11 percent. Obviously, our neighbors to the north, South Dakota do not have an income tax, so there we continue to be above them certainly. Under the proposed income tax increase here, whereas presently it is 2.37 to 6 percent is our...2.37 is the base, 6.9 percent is the highest tax bracket there is in the state...state taxes. This would marginally raise that lower rate from 2.37 to 2.43 and, probably more significantly, raise that higher rate from 6.9 percent to 7.9 percent. And so, actually, what that would do to the, you know, the 3,000, those making below 3,000 in the lowest bracket, would raise that rate from 2.37 to 2.43. On the income range, 3,000 to 28,000 married, from 1,800 to 16,800 single, it would raise the rate from 3.63 to 3.72 percent. On the bracket from 28 to 45 thousand, married, from 16 to 27, single, it raises the rate from 5.62 percent to 5.78 percent. From the bracket 45 to 90 thousand, married, from 27 to 54 thousand, single, it raises that rate from 6.92 percent to 7.1 percent, and then it adds that new bracket of 90,000 and above, and 54,000 and above on the single side of things, and it raises that base rate, that rate from 6.92 percent to 7.9 percent. So that is what it does on the income side. As I mentioned it raises \$20 million from your base income tax increase. It creates a superbracket to generate \$16 million, and instead of the full cent sales tax increase as outlined and as the body has adopted in Senator Johnson's amendment, it raises only half as much on the sales tax side, and raises some from the income tax side. So that is what the amendment does, obviously, is the policy decision that this body is going to have to make. At least now the bill is in a form with funding on it. You can make several arguments, a sales tax is something that many will feel regressive, and, obviously, that may or may not...well, it is true. I mean I will say that it is true. I guess I've always argued the most regressive tax this body can pass is probably a lottery, or things like that is the most regressive tax we can pass, and many people that are concerned about the regressivity of a sales tax don't seem to as concerned about the regressivity of a lottery as to who the incidence of and who pays that. That is, indeed, a tax by choice but, nevertheless, it is certainly more regressive than a sales tax. There are certainly other ways that we can generate money to fund this bill. One of the frustrating things in November, and December, and January, and Senator Robak hit on it a while back, is that, you know, many people are, indeed, not understanding what exactly and where we are. I know Senator Warner has made it very clear that where we are right now is that things, at