

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

April 13, 1999 LB 505

testimony in front of myself. So I've been interested...really interested in it all the way through. I got a lot of letters in my district, in fact I probably got nine to one against it. Then I got this class that really wants it. So don't you think that puts me in a bad shape right now, to try to figure out what to do with it. But I think the letters probably been about nine to one against it. But if this 66 cents is supposed to do so much good by deterring them, I think we should leave this at the 66 cents, and support leaving it there and not support Dave Landis' amendment to it, because if it's really supposed to do the job, well I think that's where it should stay. But...and I don't have no problem with where the money goes, but it is raising the tax on one set of people, and I'm not sure whether we want to do that or not. So I'm really kind of concerned about it and caught between as to what to do about it. But I just wanted to voice my opinion to say that if it really is what we want to do, let's leave it where it is now in the bill and go forward with that and take a vote on it and see where we're at. I'm going to support leaving that there, and I'm not going to support the amendment. So, with that, I just want to say again that I appreciated all the kids that came down, and I know they're watching on the TV camera right now, watching what's said on the floor and watching the debate as it goes along, and interested in just what happens here today. But hopefully we can come to a vote on the amendment and see where the bill goes today. Again, thank you.

**SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:** Senator Matzke.

**SENATOR MATZKE:** Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, Senator Jones, I counted my letters yesterday. I have 48 letters against this bill and 1 in favor of it, but I'm committed to support the bill. I don't add up numbers. I think the bill is right, I think it's necessary. There's been some sympathy, I think, indicated for the tobacco industry because we shouldn't tax them anymore. I've handed out an exhibit that shows how the revenue from cigarette sales has greatly outraced all taxes on tobacco, by a very significant margin. I don't think that the tobacco industry is entitled to any particular sympathy. I think if this...and these facts are actually from a publication by the Tobacco Institute that shows how their revenue has gained greatly over the increase in taxes.