

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

January 29, 2003 LB 122

living creatures that inhabit them...you give Game and Parks what they want. So now I decided that I'm going to try to work my way to a compromise. If they accept this amendment, I will leave this bill alone. If you lower the fee you might draw in more people. Senator Brashear is going to offer us a bill to expand the base of the sales taxpayers. I think that's still a part of his proposal. They feel that if you can get more people paying the tax, you don't have to raise the rate that anybody pays, and certain items may not have to be taxed at all. The more the merrier. You know what's killing these little farms off? And when I say a little farm, I don't mean the one the size of a city block. Maybe the one the size of six city blocks would be considered little. Maybe the size of 20 city blocks would be considered little. Any term you use with reference to a farm is relative. What is a medium-size farm? Well, it's not as small as a little farm, but it's not as big as a big farm. Well, what's a big farm? Bigger than a medium farm. What is a family farm? Any farm that a family is operating. But in our minds there's a sensing of what might be meant, so I'm going to leave it vague like that. They have a principle known as economies of scale, where the bigger you are and the more of something you're going to purchase, the cheaper you can purchase it. Whatever you're producing, the more of it you're producing the cheaper it is to produce it based on the equipment you have to use, because you can produce more with that equipment and get a greater return. So economies of scale would work with the parks if you got more people coming in. Economies of scale would work with hunting if you encourage more people to hunt, or more people to fish. But the idea is let there be a reduction in the number that constitute the clientele and just gouge those who do come until maybe they don't come. There's a question that I'm going to put later on but not right now, because I don't think Senator Schrock would be receptive to it, I don't think Senator Wehrbein would be receptive to it, I don't think any of those who are supporting this bill, some blindly so, would be receptive to it. But if we reach a point where I think people's minds might be open a crack, then I'm going to pose a question. I've read this language very carefully and I don't see something in it that ought to be in it, based on what we've been told by Senator Beutler about stimulating the rural economy, although I don't know how people going to the park is