

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

April 3, 2003

LB 726

to take care of us, then we'll do something else. This is something that the local counties can do on their own. It isn't mandated. It isn't something that comes down from the Legislature that has to be done. If they think the tax isn't fair in their county then don't vote for it. At the present time, there's somewheres around 39 counties or so that don't have it and don't use it. So my suggestion is, is to oppose the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I think I'm objecting to the amendment for two reasons. One is it puts money back, puts another 1 percent into the promotion tax, and that's really what not...we don't need that part of it. Think we need the things to fix up the facility. The second part is that this is a decision the local boards of...or boards of county supervisors or county commissioners can make. They can decide within their county to do the one cent or do the two cents, it's a local decision, or not do anything. And I think Senator Louden, when he was talking earlier, said that not all the 93 counties have this, and so it just simply...I think what's the problem with some of the...is the facilities are not there to do, so I simply would oppose this amendment on two grounds. It's 1 percent. That's something the county commissioners can make the decision on, and it's back into promotion rather than the fixing, maintenance and fixing the facilities as they have done and very successfully in Douglas County. And I think that's why Douglas County has grown, simply because of the money. It's done by grants, the museums and so forth. So I think that...this simply is a wrong way to go. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Senator Mines.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the body, I'm going to stand in support of Senator Smith's amendment. It's a tax increase and I'm going to support his tax increase. And when it comes time to vote on Senator Louden's bill, I'm going to violently oppose it because it, too, is a tax increase and the only difference between the two is Senator Smith's tax