

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

April 23, 2003

LB 759

support putting a sales tax on to it. But if you're going to increase the value of your property, whether you increase it from \$50,000 to \$65,000, to me those dollars are no different than what you add new construction on starting from a basic \$5,000 acre of property to adding a new home on of \$150,000. I think that's all in the same ball park and I think we should be concerned and consider that fact. I'm very much opposed to adding the sales tax on to just a certain small amount of which the, you know, the poorer people are adding and improving their property. But there is added value to it, and they're, in my opinion, being taxed double. And I'll return the rest of my time to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Beutler, followed by Senator Connealy, and eight others.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, I have some questions for Senator Landis, and he's not around at the moment, so I think I'll waive for the moment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise in support of this amendment to the amendment. It is clarifying, this is a building block getting us way...the way to solving our fiscal crisis, I think, that we have to put a broadening of the base into our sales tax. The people, as I've talked to them across the state, understand that we have a narrowing of what we tax in the state by the activity level of our sales tax. We have a smaller base to tax because of the agricultural downturn and because our tech bubble that took a lot of our capital gains away. To run this state, we're going to have to have a more stable and probably a broader base to do that. We, in the Revenue Committee, decided not to take everything but to build our way to a broader base and I think that this technical amendment to this section is good. I think that there are other amendments coming down the line that will be also technical in measure and improve the bill. So I support this amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Loudon.