

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

May 5, 2003

LB 754

SENATOR CUDABACK: You may do so.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. I believe this is a serious issue, not my amendment and maybe not even the bill, itself, but what it is that we're talking about, an important sector of this state, the rural area. We know that the population is basically on the eastern side of the state. The wealth which the state has is on the eastern side of the state. The political power is on the eastern side of the state. So what is to become of everything and everybody to the west? Well, they are going to be in a bad way unless there is some people from the eastern side of the state who are willing to try to help them get some measure of economic and even social justice. But the one who wants to do that the most and talks about those things the most receives the least in consideration and cooperation. People have to learn how to find sense enough to accept help from wherever it comes. If you're drowning and somebody throws you a life preserver without any trickery, but with a heavy rope attached, and you want that rope attached because once you take hold of the life preserver you want to be drawn to safety, don't examine too carefully or closely what the motives of that person may be. You have no chance of surviving without help. None of those you thought would help you or you thought should help you is anywhere in sight. This is the only game in town. So what do you have to lose? Nothing. You stand to gain your life, but some people are so voluntarily or culpably blind and unhearing that they will shoot off the end of their nose to spite their face. Rural people talk about wanting assistance. I talk about cooperation, that we should find those points of commonality. But there is no reciprocity. There is nobody on the other side extending a hand to say, I'm willing to work hard to see that justice is done. People want all of the work done for them. If this bill is enacted, there is not going to be a sudden bump upward in the economy as it relates to the ordinary people in rural or farm areas. It's not going to do that. This is not a bill that implicates ordinary people. This is a battle between the titans. On the one hand, those who have the huge operations and on the other those who see it as their duty, as elected officials, to take care of the welfare and best interest of people who cannot do it on their own. The state should not intrude into that situation and tilt the scale against the