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traffic accidents like alcohol does. And I was just handed an article this morning that I might just want to read just a little bit out of it, to give you an idea of what I'm talking about. About 40 percent of the fatalities involved drivers who were drunk, according to the National Highway Traffic Administration. The 17,970 alcohol-related traffic deaths was an increase of 3 percent over the 2001 figure, the third increase in a row for alcohol-related traffic deaths. So it's increasing every year. And I realize that they might not have the after effects like lung cancer and things like that from smoking, but this is causing a lot of deaths on the highway. And we're trying to raise revenue here. So I'd hope people would go along and oppose the committee amendments and go ahead and vote the green copy out, because I do like Senator Landis' idea. He picked \$10 million, and I think we should stick with it and go ahead and move that out like that. So that's...I'm going to support the bill but not the committee amendments. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Jones. Senator Brashear. Senator Brashear waives. Senator Kruse.

SENATOR KRUSE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I stand to oppose the committee amendment and to comment on the proportion of this tax. It is amazing, it is stunning to see that this tax increase of 25 percent is considered modest. It's a misuse of terms, because I have worked with others to have a much larger increase. Some of us took it upon ourselves to try to figure out what alcohol abuse costs this state, not in terms of social costs, just bucks to our treasury. I'm talking about our budget. It is someplace between four and five hundred million, it looks like. It's very hard to identify that, of course, and be precise. So I'm dropping that back to \$300 million, a very conservative figure. That's the cost of alcohol abuse. Now, all the persons...most of the people who drink alcohol do not abuse it. But consider, in our present day, as we're looking at funding, how much subsidy we're giving to one industry. I don't care whether it's alcohol or any other industry, any industry. We're subsidizing this industry by as much as our deficit. If they paid their bills, we wouldn't have a deficit. We are cutting women, children, orphans, and universities in order to