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excruciating. I don't want to tease at this bad tooth. I want to pull it out. And by the bad tooth, I mean the allowance of the liquor industry to dictate to this Legislature, to bully and buffalo it, divert our attention to the cigarette smokers. I'm not going to agree to do that. And I don't think that there's the collective will in the Legislature to stop me from doing what I am contemplating in my mind to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I had passed out to you this comparison. I'd invite you to take a look at it. Under the committee amendment that's now before us, we would be taxing liquor at two dollars and...sorry, \$3.75 per gallon, higher than every state except South Dakota, which is at \$3.93. On our borders, for example, we have Missouri that is at \$2.00. We will be taxing at 75 percent higher than Missouri. We will be taxing at 50 percent higher than Kansas. We will be higher...we will be taxing at 60 percent higher than Colorado. With respect to beer, we will be 280 percent higher in our taxes than Colorado; 50 percent higher than Iowa; 50 percent higher than Kansas; 480 percent higher than Missouri. We will be also higher than South Dakota. We'll be the highest tax for beer in this area. If we use the terms in this amendment, we will be taxing at 200 percent higher than Colorado for wine; 200 percent higher than Kansas; 200 percent higher than Missouri. And certainly 25 percent higher than where we are in Nebraska. We will be lower than Iowa. In the greater scheme of things, the numbers that I think reflect an economic reality, they, I think, place us in the high end of our region. There are, after we're done with this, only two amounts in any of the eight states around us, seven states around us, that would have a higher tax, one with respect to South Dakota on liquor, and one with respect to Iowa on wine. Every other state we are higher than in every category. Now, it depends on what your benchmark is. If you use the benchmark as to what the cost of alcohol, the social cost of alcohol is, there isn't enough tax to be collected here. It is astronomical, I agree. It's absolutely through the roof. It's true. This is a legally allowable addiction that some people have, which is devastating in its social effect.