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their fair share in helping us with our tax challenge. And so I am supportive of this legislation. I will yield my time to Senator Chambers.

**SPEAKER BROMM:** Senator Chambers, you have four and a half minutes.

**SENATOR CHAMBERS:** Thank you, Senator Price. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, a major difference, perhaps, between what we are doing and what other states who have knuckled under to the liquor industry have done is that we, this session, are taking a deliberate decision, an intentional, premeditated decision to raise revenue through taxation. Since we are going to tax this behemoth of an industry, which bullies and intimidates legislatures, we should make the effort one that is worthwhile, based on the amount of tax that we impose. It should not be one of those situations where we call ourselves breaking out of a mold of timorousness by putting an inconsequential tax in place, knowing it is not going to be raised, perhaps, for a decade. So what we're doing now is catching up from the past, and virtually ensuring the liquor industry that they will be immune and exempt from further increases of any significance. Nothing since I've been in the Legislature has been taxed at the level and to the degree of cigarettes. And that tax money has been used for some of every kind of thing. Now is the time to do the proper thing with reference to the liquor industry in our taxing. If we fail at this point, I think the session, as far as trying to close the shortfall gap, has failed. And there is no need in playing around the edges. Senator Brashear's bill should go down. The budget bill, whether it passes or not makes me no difference, because the Governor is going to play politics with that and red pencil. We will come back. And maybe by then there will be some steel in the senators' spines when it comes to looking at deriving money from the liquor industry. So perhaps there is a better chance to get a substantial increase in the tax on alcohol if this bill fails and if Senator Brashear's bill fails. Then the liquor lobby will have been shown that they outsmarted themselves. I'm sure the feeling was that I would not attempt to kill this bill, because I want to see the industry taxed. So they have me between a rock and a hard place, they think. But