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raise taxes on cigarettes because they're a bad thing; let's raise taxes on any product or service. What I hear, what I've always heard, is it's about spending, folks, and in my mind we haven't addressed spending. We haven't solidified our direction on spending and we're talking about raising revenues. Alcohol happens to be the first one up, but I'm going to...I'll vote red on both of these issues. And I hope that we start addressing our spending needs before we all join in and raise revenues, before we need...know what exactly we might need. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the time.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Mines. Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, interesting discussion, but it brings me back to what we heard and saw in the Revenue Committee about the effects of raising something too high in a state that has a majority of the population, or a large portion of it, within a mile of another city. There was a wholesaler that appeared before the Revenue Committee when we were talking about raising cigarette taxes, and if I've told you this story before I want...I apologize, but I think it is so evident of what really happens. This wholesaler had a tobacco and candy company and he showed us what happened the last time we raised the cigarette taxes, which was last year, but he is still selling the same amount of products out of his company. His gross volume has not dropped, but it shifted. He had a 30 percent decrease in the sales of tobacco in the Omaha stores, and a 30 percent increase in the stores in Council Bluffs and the surrounding area. So raising taxes on particular items that a very few, a small majority...minority of the people that consume them is not necessarily going to stop someone for using those products. They will go to the best price they can find. And if we get ourselves too far out-of-sync with our bordering states, that's exactly what's going to happen. You know, if you drink, say, a six-pack of beer a day and that case of beer, four six-packs in a case, is going to cost you a significant amount of dollars less, it's not too hard to venture into that other state, especially when the proximity is so close, and buy that product on the other side of the river. And while you're there, you'll check and see what the tax is on petroleum products. You know,