

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

May 6, 2003

LB 283

5 cents on the dollar. I do not understand the thought of this at all in a year when we are looking for serious money and we have a source that is clearly undertaxed. Our tax on this product is shameful, shamefully low. I would hope that we would take a look at all this before us. If there are other parts of this amendment that need to be forwarded by themselves, let it be so. There are many things that were spoken to there that we would favor. But I certainly cannot endorse dropping this very high increase of one cent on a can of beer because it would be too much money.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kruse. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion on the motion to reconsider the vote taken, Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I, like Senator Kruse, find it troublesome that we would ask to reconsider this amendment. Again, the tax is low and we're down here setting priorities, and I just...I just want to ask where are your priorities? Are your priorities with the individuals that pay property tax? Are they those who pay income tax? And we're going to put sales tax on a lot of other issues, some services, but this is one that, well, we'll just give a little bit. We do have a large budget gap out here that's going to be made up either by cutting expenses or raising revenue. I really anticipated that we would do some of each. But when we asked for a reconsideration to go from...well, it was less than \$10 million, it was 9 something down to 4.5, and to say that \$9 million is too much on alcohol where the costs are so great. And I'm not saying this because of, well, my amendment didn't pass, sour grapes. No, it's because I have priorities, and those priorities are, I'm sorry, don't lie with the alcohol industry. I've never taken any alcohol, tobacco or gambling money knowingly, and you always get...you'd better add that, if you make that statement. But...and the reason I did is I didn't want to be in position that I then would feel that I owed a vote to anybody. But I do find it troublesome that we would reconsider this vote and try to cut in half a tax that is far, far too low and has been there for a number of years. I will not vote for the reconsideration, and would ask my colleagues not to do that also. I'm certainly willing to