

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

May 6, 2003

LB 283

fact is we haven't raised any taxes since that year except for what we did last year in LB 1085. So I didn't support the bill coming out of committee. I am going to support Senator Cunningham's motion simply so that we can reduce the impact that this is going to have on the consumer of these products. And I don't know what Senator Chambers is going to do, but that's all right. I think that we, as part of the process, there's give and take, there's negotiations between various interest groups and legislators, and I think that this was a reasonable compromise, the committee amendment, and I intend to support them. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do see five hands. The motion before us is to cease debate on the reconsider motion of the Revenue Committee amendments to LB 283. All in favor of the motion to cease debate vote aye, opposed nay. Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 4 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Debate does cease. The motion was successful. Senator Cunningham, you're recognized to close on your motion.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Well, thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. I'm not going to take much time here. I would just tell you that we've heard that we are very undertaxed for the alcohol tax now, but I will tell you right now, with no tax increase, we're the highest of any state around, the way I understand it, except for one. That's with no tax increase. So this is a substantial tax increase at 25 percent, approximately, so I think that it's more than fair. But I would also tell you that in...this is a compromise for me because I didn't want to vote for any tax. But I would tell you, whether that business sells alcohol or what they sell, I'm going to stand up for those businesses on the border because they pay property taxes also. They pay income taxes, and we shouldn't be trying to drive their