

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

May 8, 2003

LB 759

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Brashear, would you yield?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Senator Brashear. I want to just ask you a couple quick questions. And again, I've indicated to you that I support your package. And as you know, I don't like any of these taxes, but I recognize that we have to do this. And I appreciate your efforts in this area. If Senator Stuthman's amendment is adopted, on your salmon colored sheet it indicates that it's \$56 million in lost revenue to your...to that 342 that you're talking about at the bottom. Is that accurate?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Yes, Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay. Let me ask you this. And I realize that when you look at the expansion of the base, you're trying to pick those areas that reflect what other states are doing. But here's my question. Say for example that we discuss the budget early next week, and say we come up with an additional number of cuts that offset this. Is this an area that you'd be willing to look at in terms of furthering, assuming we could come with a corresponding cut on the other side? I mean, is this a...I'm trying to get at what part of...how significant this is to your package in terms of philosophy, theory of expansion of the base, things of that nature.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Senator Bourne, without belaboring it on your time, I believe the service and labor of repair and maintenance and the like is truly the essence of the expansion of the base. Because this is the area of...that is growing in our economy. It is an area which others in our competitive marketplace are taxing. And I think it's where we have to go. Because if you've noticed, even during this particular downturn, there has been enormous movement and activity in the housing and the renovation market, and the refinancing market. All that's indicative of why we want to spread the base broadly.

SENATOR BOURNE: And I agree with, in theory, what you're doing.