

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

May 8, 2003

LB 759

SENATOR BEUTLER: ..three or four details that you might not consider absolutely tied up. They probably will be taken care by rule and regulation. And if they're not, and...or if you disagree with the rule and regulation, we'll do as we've done hundreds of times before. We'll come back in and clarify and make it better. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I rise in support of the Stuthman amendment, AM1627, for several reasons. I believe it's cumbersome how we propose to tax the labor on remodeling construction. I'm not convinced that it's a workable scenario to truly say that we are changing tax policy here. But it's kind of a piecemeal approach. And I appreciate the intent, but I cannot support something that I believe is not good for the consumer, and it will just complicate things, and for not much relief in the end. I won't belabor the point. A lot of the statements have already been made, and I'd only be repeating those. But I do rise in support of this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator McDonald.

SENATOR McDONALD: Mr. Chairman and members of the body, I'm going to rise in support of Senator Stuthman's amendment. There are a lot of homes out in my area that are not new homes. They are repaired farm homes. Not everyone has the money to purchase a new home, because it does take a substantial down payment. And because of that, if we're allowing a tax on the repairs and then turn around and, of course, paying a property tax on the improvement, it's kind of a double hit. And so I rise in support of Arnie's...Senator Stuthman's amendment. I think we're still picking and choosing, deciding what we're going to tax and what we're not going to tax. And that's difficult. Those that talk the loudest sometimes get exempt. And I think sometimes maybe we don't need any exemptions. Maybe we should just tax everything. Lower the rate and tax everything. Because it's very difficult to pick and choose. And is that fair, to pick and choose? I don't know. But I'm going to turn the rest of my time over to Senator Stuthman.