

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

May 14, 2003

LB 408

be the only one that we can't touch? Why? So I urge you...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...to consider this amendment as a way to pull this tighter. I don't think it hurts anyone in the long run, in terms of road building. You can schedule to it. It doesn't impact the cities or the counties, and it doesn't make the variable gas tax go up. It's a way to help fill the gap, and it's a cut. And I've been hearing how we need to cut, cut, cut. Well, here's an opportunity to do that. And I would appreciate your support of this amendment. And I think if we pass it, we're going to have some options there. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. You've heard the opening on AM1849, offered by Senator Thompson to LB 408. Open for discussion on that amendment. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'd like to talk to Senator Wehrbein, if he hasn't gone to Oklahoma. I don't know what the chances are.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Wehrbein. Is he...?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Senator Wehr...well, let me make a few points first. I guess Senator Thompson is going to talk about this sacred cow again. I'm on the Natural Resources Committee. And we deal with three state agencies: Game and Parks, Department of Environmental Quality, and Department of Natural Resources. And all those state agencies have taken a 12 percent reduction in their state aid. Game and Parks, hey, cut them, it doesn't matter. They can deal with it, right? They're only our number-one tourist attraction in the state. Now, when you go to the recreation areas this summer and you go to our state parks, and you find out that some of them aren't as well maintained as they were in the past, you'll understand why. And then if people quit going to them and buying park stickers, they won't have any money. Department of Environmental Quality, they just regulate our feedlots, they regulate our power companies when it comes to air emissions. Department of Natural Resources, water quality, water quantity issues, big issues there. But Senator