

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

May 14, 2003

LB 408

money going to the Department of Roads. But in this amendment here, it states that we're going to take a 10 percent cut to the roads operation. This would be a direction to the road...the operation of the Roads, what they can spend, for next...for the next year, or two years, would be a 10 percent cut. But this 10 percent cut would be those dollars that would be in this 10 percent cut, which according to this one sheet of Senator Thompson would be \$67 million. That tells me that we're going to take \$67 million from this fund. We're going to tell them, you can't spend the money that you have generated in the direction that it was supposed to be, and the intention of it, and we're going to take the \$67 million out of there and use in our own business of the state, the General Fund portion of it. In some of the comments, she had stated that, you know, we rank twelfth in the country in state and local spending for highways, and tenth in the country for percentage of general spending. I would like to ask a question of Senator Thompson at this time, if she would respond.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Thompson, would you respond?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes, Mr. President.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: I would like to ask, how does Nebraska rate as far as fuel taxes are concern, in comparison to other states?

SENATOR THOMPSON: I'll have to get that. I think we're high.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: You think we're high?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Okay. If I can get...

SENATOR THOMPSON: But I don't have...I don't know the exact ranking.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Okay. And I appreciate that. But in the conversation, you know, in the last several weeks, and stuff like that, of what I've heard from some of the truckers, they state that the Nebraska fuel taxes are some of the highest in