

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

May 14, 2003

LB 408

projects haven't been started. We're trying to get transportation across the western end of Nebraska from Colorado to Dakota. These are all things that have to be done. And if we start tinkering with our Highway Trust Fund, why, most of those projects will get delayed. This is something we got to be very careful about. And I really think there's other places to look for \$67,000...or, \$67 million. The way our tax system is set up, it's designed so that if we have the intestinal fortitude to change the numbers, why the money will be there. That's usually the problem. It's been the problem most of the time. So I think there's better ways of finding the money than to work on something that's already a success. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I did hear Speaker Bromm give these statistics. And I'm just taking...I heard the first one. I didn't hear the second one. But this is off the Department of Roads web site. Nebraska ranks ninth...I heard him say that...in terms of gas tax rate, compared to other states. But in average price per gallon, as of April 2003, we are forty-third. And I just wanted to add that for the record. I want to address a couple themes I've heard here by various people. One is that we're breaking faith with people who paid their gas tax. And I remind you, it's a gas tax. And pretty much everybody moves around, whether they're in a car or they're being driven by a car. So it's a tax. And we have broken faith so many times in the last budget year. I'm going to read you all the funds we have raided, that were directed, that came from users and others for them. The Securities Act Cash Fund, the Department of Insurance Cash Fund, the Department of Motor Vehicles Cash Fund, the Charitable Gaming Operations Fund, the Tobacco Products Administration Cash Fund, Health and Human Services Bureau of Examining Boards, DAS Recycling Fund, the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board, Education Innovation Fund, Workers' Compensation Cash Fund, Petroleum Release Remedial Action Cash Fund, the State Patrol Cash Fund, the Professional Practices Commission Fund, Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund, Child Abuse Prevention Fund, and the State Building Revolving Vacant Building Fund. This year. That was what we did in the various...the various