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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 759

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise in respectful opposition to Senator Kruse's amendment, and I'm not dealing with the merits. Everybody here knows and understands the process and we are constantly on and off the floor in the process of dealing with one another. Some would call it negotiations. Some would call it dealing. Some would call it consultation. Whatever it is, it is a good faith exercise that is a very important and legitimate part of the legislative process. There has been a great deal of discussion this session with regard to liquor taxation. I was not a part of any of the negotiations or consultations or deliberations that went on with regard to that. But you know and have heard it reported here that it, in fact, occurred, who by industry and sector participated and who did not. You all have watched as we have moved forward with the appropriating process and the revenue raising side of the issue and how we have gotten to this point in time and to this moment. We have voted already affirmatively today to add additional tax with regard to the general area of liquor. That has raised additional revenue. There comes a time not, as a part of the process, to not revisit and revisit again after the issue has been decided. And so it isn't necessary to argue the merits, in my judgment. It's are we cohesively here legislating...this is not a motion to reconsider, this is a motion to take all that has been done with regard to liquor, wine, beer, spirits, however it's defined, and to try and get more now. That simply is not effective within the process, in my judgment. I would urge that you defeat the Kruse amendment and that we continue the forward progress that we have been...at least the majority of the body, I am not trying to lock anybody in, has been an affirmative part of. I ask that you defeat the amendment and that you advance the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brashear. Senator Johnson, on the Kruse amendment to LB 759.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Senator Cudaback, members of the body, I'm not going to spend a lot of time on this because I certainly respect what Senator Brashear has just got done talking about with the process. And I realize that the taxes on alcohol have been raised maybe a half a drop, but I guess I have to still stand up and say that when we had the discussion a week ago, it was a