

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

March 18, 2004      LB 1089

you. Thank you. And it also gives me the opportunity to suggest the direction that I think we ought to go. At the time when the Governor was stating his position of being against all tax increases, I had indicated on several occasions, but I don't think anybody paid attention because I'm generally not paid attention to on this floor, that the only way the state can obtain revenue is through taxation.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That is a legitimate activity of and by the state, and it was my view then and it is now that we're going to have to raise taxes and the Governor agrees. But I want to raise the income tax. I don't want to pick and patch around the edges. I don't want to try to do it through mill levy increases or anything like that. I want to go with a tax that is derived from people who definitely have to have the money with which to pay it before any tax is levied as far as they're concerned. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. On with discussion, Senator Wehrbein on AM3033.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President. I don't have a lot to say at this point. I'm...would take questions. I simply wanted to make it clear there was no im...there is recognition of the low-level nuclear waste lawsuit in the out...in the next biennium, but there is no allowance for that to be funded. So that is why the gap is fairly significant in the out years on page 7. But the committee felt that we should recognize that. Back to this particular year, I want to just emphasize we've done the balancing of this year. There is no tax increase. There is simply using cash reserve money and transfers in. Some of the money came from the cash reserve that we had and also some had come from the federal government that a year ago after we were out of session and some this fall came back to the cash reserve from the federal government. So those have all...those have all been used and we...but we can get through this year's budget, i.e., June 30 of 2005, under our proposal. And as I try to stick with LB 1089, that's all the comments I have at this point.