

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

March 22, 2004 LB 1093

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, with the offering of this amendment, I have changed my position more than anybody on this floor has, more than anybody on this floor will. I will not maintain this posture if this amendment is adopted. I had decided that I would make one effort at trying to be a part of the solution that is not so traumatizing. But if that fails, there is nothing else that I can think of. I do not believe that LB 1093 with the committee amendment has very much value. I just don't. If you adopt this amendment, there will be an add-on of value. The amount that will be generated if this amendment is adopted is not inconsiderable. It is worthy of looking at, and it would put something on Select File that would catch the attention of people who have an interest in this matter. If there are other proposals and propositions that adoption of this amendment will compel people to consider, the adoption of the amendment will have served a worthwhile purpose. Maybe if it is adopted today it will be jettisoned on Select File. I don't really know. But I do know that I'm not going to be racking my brain trying to find a solution that might be more acceptable than raising the income tax. But I know that I will do what I can to delay this bill and do some more pounding, until a different point of view is adopted. For you see, brothers and sisters, I have no compunction about staying on this bill for however long it takes. What Senator Raikes could do by way of getting a test vote is to try to invoke cloture. But if he doesn't succeed, then the bill is off the agenda for a period of time, and when it comes back on, we have to have at least two hours more of debate before cloture can be invoked again. Maybe if the bill came back we wouldn't have to get to cloture, because some minds may have been made more malleable, and we can manipulate or shape them closer to our heart's desire. This amendment is not what I would prefer. I would prefer the income tax. That remains a viable alternative. I was pleased to hear that an increase in the sales tax is off the table. I am not going to support anything that will increase the gas tax, not for ethanol, not for public transportation, and certainly not for a bond issue. So those bills, at least one of them moved that would increase the gas tax by .1 cent, I believe. That bill is not going to have an easy time on Select File. We're going to stay on it a long time, and some of the others. But you all