

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

April 5, 2004

LB 1065

SENATOR BAKER: I will take it up.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you. Senator Chambers, you are recognized to open on your motion.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Madam President, members of the Legislature, I have worked hard today, so I'm going to adopt a more leisurely mode now. We know where we are. This bill is not going to go anywhere. There were 22 people who voted for Senator Wehrbein's amendment. That does not mean that those 22 would vote against cloture, but it should give Senator Baker pause, because if he moves for cloture and he doesn't get it, then the bill is off the agenda. On the other hand, if he does not move for cloture, we're going to be here. And I have enough amendments to keep us here for the rest of the evening. And Senator Friend may tonight have the opportunity to see that clock on the wall read 11:59 p.m. Before the heavenly shades of night begin to fall, I want to make it clear to Senator Baker, Senator Schrock, and the other shortsighted people, that LB 1065 does not mean anything to people such as myself. There are other "city folk"--you might want to use that term to designate them--to whom it means nothing. This is a rural bill. It has been turned into one that is detrimental to the city folk, but also to the rural folk, by virtue of that increased gas tax. Senator Wehrbein did not hammer that issue long enough or hard enough. More will be spent as a result of that increase in the fuel tax than will be the cost of the 1 cent checkoff. You're increasing it by a half a penny. So we can just stay here, and I think my colleagues will get tired before I will, or the Speaker will. I have no interest in completing his agenda. My agenda is to get that gas tax off. So however long it takes, I'm willing to expend that time. Suppose, brothers and sisters, we got off this bill. We still are going to be here. There are still issues to discuss. So what difference does it make to me what I spend the time discussing? I would rather spend it, if I must, fighting against something that is hurtful to the people than talking about a bill that may not be too consequential one way or the other. So I have a sheaf of amendments in my mind that I haven't begun to draft. I'm just going to use some motions first, because they're easy to deal with. Whenever a bill such as this comes up, it will be discussed some of the