

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

April 13, 2004 LB 1017

would have to meet in order to qualify for excusing the taxes on them. So I just wanted to be on record as saying despite the fact the bright line amendment was pulled, I still stand firm in my belief that 25 percent would be much more reasonable, would not capture all the homeowner reconstruction. Certainly that would be more fair to the average homeowner taxpayer person. However, perhaps somewhere in between we can revisit this next year. And as a matter of also being on the record, I'd like to say that eventually I would just like to see the rate lowered and just about everything taxed. I think that would be fair. This pick and choose and take and don't take and this and that is so hard to comply with. We've got contractors complaining. I think that was the whole reason we came up with the bright line deal to start with. People were complaining. Be careful what you ask for because you will get it. But I think this pick and choose thing has become a very expensive and hard to deal with proposition and it is not fair; not fair to the broad base of people I think, that I'd like to see that eventually. So that's just for the record. I do support the Landis amendment, and if bright line comes back next year, I would like to see it at 25 percent or a percentage that would be more reflective of the vast number of people doing homeowner reconstruction. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Combs. Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. First of all, I want to address a couple of items on the amendment. I think this is a good approach to try to recapture some of those dollars that are realistically due to the state. Another thing that I want to bring up this morning is, you know, the question that I had and I directed them to Senator Landis, about the amount of dollars that this bill did produce from last year in the first quarter of its enactment. He claims that it has brought in \$8 million. I think, you know, I probably can live with that, that amount, although I think we need to make sure that in future legislation that whenever we do initiate a new tax, a new direction, broadening the tax, selective taxing, that we need to identify those dollars when they come in somehow through the bookkeeping system, through accountability. We need to know in future years, you know, has this really helped? Did