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

April 21, 2005 LR 8

that I respect what Sierra Club stands for, what they try to do. Don't always agree with them, but they have a presence and they do testify in front of the Natural Resources Committee hearing on a regular basis, and I appreciate that. So I just wanted to make that clarification. Senator Chambers, you can have the rest of my time if you want it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Schrock. I'm going to read something from a book called, 1787: The Grand Convention by Clinton Rossiter, and he is considered to be an historian...a historian of the first order and a first-rate constitutional scholar. And this is from page 56. They were trying, some of the people, to get delegates to Philadelphia, and they weren't going. Then something very fortuitous happened. This was, of course, the celebrated Shays' Rebellion, one of the few events in American history that was as important in fact as it has become in legend. The rebellion, perhaps too strong a word, had become...oh, but Captain Shays and his men are stuck with it forever. It was an uprising in the fall of 1786 of hard-pressed rural debtors in western Massachusetts. Before they were finally routed by the loyal militia under General Lincoln early in 1787, some 2,000 of the most desperate, or adventurous, of them managed to raise the largest fuss of its kind since the affair at Alamance in 1771. They called changes impromptu conventions to demand in the state constitution, resisted payment of taxes and fees, used force to prevent county courts from sitting, and finally rose in arms to march hither and you in search of justice, which proved elusive, and excitement, which became too much for almost everybody when an assault was launched on the arsenal at Springfield. Although the Shaysites were not Jacobans, and although they collapsed quickly when force was mustered and applied, the news from Massachusetts spread alarm throughout the Union, for every state felt the unsettling effects of the persistent drain of specie and had its share of debt-ridden farmers...farmers will take and do things; let me continue...had its share of debt-ridden farmers who might take it into their heads to appeal from the courts to the streets and camps. When people see similar things happen in inner cities and other locations where