

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

May 10, 2005

LB 500

to call the question on various ones so that we can get to the amendment process, so that Senator Redfield can get to her amendment about eminent domain and the like, but not to foreclose the eight hours' discussion that we have. I think Senator Chambers is reasonable on this point...not reasonable, but I think he's been clear on that point, and it's quite right we will be here, one way or the other, those eight hours. He's of a mind that we're going to do it and we will do it. The question is whether or not the fact that we're going to be eight hours should change the way you vote because I believe, if I understand Senator Chambers right, he says, you better vote like I want; otherwise, it's going to be this and that and this and that. Your judgment is your own, but you'd better do what I say because otherwise we're going to do this. You know, why don't we get into the realm of ideas? Why don't we get into the realm of good public policy or bad public policy? There are plenty of open questions on that score. I think that's a fair front on which to decide this measure. And if you're not persuaded...I listened to Senator Pedersen just now. I think he was saying, I'm not persuaded. I think it will be local money; I think it will be local money chasing local money, and I'm a skeptic of LB 500. I don't think it will really be tourism. I thought that certainly falls within the realm of ideas and is exactly the kind of discussion that we ought to have--fair game. I welcome a discussion about the underlying ideas rather than simply whether or not the clock is an appropriate mechanism to decide how you should vote. I mean, if I haven't been persuasive or if the bill is not persuasive to you, I expect you to vote no; no on the amendments, no on advancement, no on cloture override, because you're not persuaded by the ideas. All right. What is remarkable about this bill is it is different than the way we normally do business. We normally do not take the sales tax income stream and siphon it back for a particular project. We normally stick it into the General Fund. It funds our budget. That's a big difference in the way we normally do business. A second thing that is different about this bill is that we generally do not incent retail operations. Now some of the utilizations that have been suggested here in a theme park or a baseball diamond don't fall into the same retail category, and there might be some other kind of support that would be available to them. But the one that brought us here,