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

March 29, 2006 LB 554

do something about this state where we live. You've given multimillions to the rich man. Why don't you want to give Lazarus a crust of bread? Don't those parables mean anything to you all? Look at you, standing around talking about something else and the business at hand means nothing to you. This Legislature is a pistol. How much time do I have, Mr. President?

SENATOR BAKER: Seven seconds.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Aquilar.

SENATOR AGUILAR: Thank you, Mr. President, members. wanted to share on the record what just come across my e-mail. Actually, my staff sent it up, but came downstairs first, and it was a brief note just to say, you know, people back home are listening. And this letter is from a retired senior and she said, Senator Aguilar, you hit the nail right on the head; your talk...what you're talking about and us seniors is exactly the case. I retired as a state employee and had to go to work for a minimum wage job. On top of that, I had to pay \$2.50 every day to get a bus ride to work. My point here is those people do exist, folks. That's why we need this legislation. If you're listening, that's why we need this legislation. If you won't do it for the seasonal workers, and we all know who we re talking about there, and you won't do it for the teenagers, many of whom these pages up here in front of us work for minimum wage, I don't think any of them were truly happy or satisfied with it, then at least think about doing it for the seniors of this state. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Aguilar. Senator Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Senator Baker. I guess I would just ask you is, why would we increase the minimum wage when there is no state around us that has a higher minimum wage? And, Senator Beutler, I guess you could comment to that if you would like.