

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

March 26, 2002 LB 1085

SENATOR LANDIS: I call the question, Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do see five hands. The question before us is ceasing debate on AM3323. All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. The question before us is ceasing debate on AM3323. We're voting on ceasing debate. We're voting on ceasing debate on AM3323. Have you all voted who care to? Have you all voted who care to? We're voting on ceasing debate. Record, please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 9 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Debate does cease. Senator Wickersham, you're recognized to close on your amendment, AM3323.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President. I'm going to comment briefly. I don't think we need to have a lot of conversation, additional conversation, for the vote to adopt the amendment to the amendment. I see several lights on. We'll have more opportunity to discuss the amendment before it's adopted to the bill. I appreciate the discussion we've had thus far. I appreciate your patience in taking up what is perhaps a little bit more complicated issue than what you expected to take up at this point in time. But it's a very important issue and it's a step that I believe that we need to take this evening, not only so that we can start to bring our fiscal house in order for the current biennium but so that, frankly, we can begin to address the longer term fiscal issues that we have. I continue to believe that broadening of the sales tax base is appropriate and that the proposal that we have to roll back part of the 1997 income tax reduction is appropriate in the current circumstances. We won't be asking anybody to pay taxes that hasn't earned the income, that doesn't have the ability to pay them, and I think that's an important consideration in our current environment. I want to emphasize again that I would... I don't expect this necessarily to be an easy decision for people. I don't think that there are any easy decisions for us to make. This is not necessarily an easy decision even for me, even though I'm comfortable with the decision. I believe it's an appropriate decision, but it is never an easy decision to do