

realize that much from that grain in that alcohol. It even miffs me, some of the opposition to this bill when you go up and down the street the problems caused by alcohol and drug abuse and I am not introducing this bill simply as a revenue bill. I do want you to know though that the bill...the amount of this increase is very little more than what inflation would have been in the last four years. I don't have those...I did have the figures. I don't have them right underneath my finger right at the moment. So we are not asking for a large increase. Actually to bring beer up it should have been brought up to 30 cents a gallon and we didn't want to make such a large increase at one time. I simply saw the need for these programs. And again may I reiterate, the people are very willing to pay for this small amount of tax for additional drug, alcohol abuse, mental programs. We have a problem in our area. We are to lose the detox center at Hastings, \$183,000. I really wouldn't go to the dress manufacturer and ask for money for funding for a detox center. In the testimony on the driver's license bill, the identification, who was in to testify to retain that picture on the driver's license? The liquor dealers. They are willing to pay for it. You would think that it would come out of the retail establisher's pocket. It does not come out of there. And the need for this is tremendous. As I say, the surveys that I have taken, it is nearly a hundred percent support. The only ones I had against it were liquor wholesalers and from out the state you can see the ones that testified during the hearing. And due to the length of time in that particular day, I have available a sheet of 21 more people, businesses, institutions, alcoholism services, drug services and so on that were here to testify for the bill. Actually people just seemed to come in out of the walls when they saw this need. And I just...I can't even see how anyone can question what the need is that we need for additional alcohol and drug abuse programs.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Madam President and members, the issue with LB 280 is one that I have some sympathy for, but, quite frankly, I wish to speak more to the letter that was circulated with Senator Johnson's initials at the top. I wish to speak more to the statement on the committee statement indicating that there has been some sort of an agreement reached and these rates will be retained until a