

persuade you to adopt it, but I will let that be my opening, and any questions that you would ask I'm prepared to answer them.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, the Revenue Committee did discuss this question of percentage of fruit juice before a product would be taxed. And, unlike most of the rest of the definitions in the bill as it came out of committee, this is one where there is room for some value judgments and some clarification, because there are within the realm of fruit juice products it runs all the way from...from 100 percent pure juice, to those that are about half and half, down to...and I don't think there's anything under 10 percent that is marketed as a fruit juice product. Some states go with 50 percent as the cutoff point, others go with 10 percent. We debated it in the committee, decided to stay with the 50 percent. I don't think going to the 10 percent causes a great problem with the concept of the bill. And as I think Senator Chambers did make some compelling arguments, the other day, when we discussed this, that there are some individuals whose budgets are such that in order to get the vitamin C and the other nutrients that go along with fruit products, they purchase purchase...they purchase, at a much lower rate, products that are not pure 100 percent fruit juice or even 50 percent fruit juice. I don't see a big problem with this. Now, Senator Chambers, I know you're...you may want to just pay a little bit of attention to this, because you and I haven't had an opportunity to visit about this, and I don't want you to be blind-sided later on. I don't think it will cause a problem, but there have been a couple of other issues committee counsel brought up that maybe when the bill gets to...if the bill gets to Select File, we'll want to visit with further. Another one is question of soup, is soup a beverage or is soup a food product? And it would be my intention that soup is certainly a food product that would not be taxed and would probably need to clarify that on...sometime later on. The other question is, what about a...something that is a pop product, marketed as a pop product, is carbonated, but the manufacturers of it dump a little bit of fruit juice in it to get away from paying the tax. And I think we'd like to do some clarification on that later on also. But at this point the 10 percent standard does mitigate against some of the taxes that would be collected, some products would not be taxed that would otherwise be taxed. But I don't think it causes a major problem with the bill, and I think you