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LB 1330

Speaker, as Chair of the Education Committee, as all-around good guy, I guess, I don't know exactly why, I've been involved in some discussions, sorry, Senator Schimek, if you want to disagree with that, you're certainly welcome to, involved with some discussions concerning some of these other economic development projects. Mercedes-Benz, they didn't come here. And BMW, they didn't come here. Whirlpool, they didn't come here. Three strikes and you're out in anybody's league, but it was not good enough for Senator Withem and my colleagues. Some of those others, and I've come to the conclusion that as good or as bad, or as indifferent as you may think LB 775 was, some of our other economic development packages may have been, they are not on their own enough to keep us competitive for these large, large projects. So if Micron decides tomorrow that they want to go to Utah, or they want to go to Oklahoma, or if they don't want to do this expansion, I still think it's important that we put in place an infrastructure within our economic development strategy where we can compete in this arena. There is a tax base concern I know, and there always is a tax base concern, and somebody who has thought as long and hard as I have to maintain the tax base, to fund public education doesn't take these arguments lightly. I believe that these bills, this package of bills, are such, that the target level, the entry level, qualification level is such that you will not see this level of project in our state without this type of incentive. If you're not going to see it without this incentive, why do you not see it with the incentive? Because Senator Withem and others, as they say on the streets, they went for the okey-doke. They were tricked and they swallowed what they were being told hook, line and sinker. Continuing: in other words, with these bills that currently require \$50 million of investment and 500 new jobs, if these jobs, if we don't have this type of...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...legislation in place, you're not going to see those types of jobs. I know there have been arguments with 775 and LB 270 and other economic development measures that may, in fact, we may have, in fact, "incented" people to do things that they would have otherwise done. Let me get into LB 830. I'm losing track of my time. Senator Crosby, could you tell me how much time I have left? Senator Crosby: you have about three