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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: And the purpose of doing that is to achieve what goal?

SENATOR DIERKS: The purpose, I believe, is to predict the amount that is...of carbon that's in each part of the soil, each part of the state, so that there could be...they might be able to use this in a method of carbon trading that needs to take place in certain...with certain corporations, certain carbon emitting companies.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And that means that corporations that pollute will be able to continue polluting if you can show certain areas where this carbon is sequestered in the soil. Isn't that, simply put, what we're talking about?

SENATOR DIERKS: That's pretty simply put, but that's pretty close.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now, we had been told, when we first were doing this in the Legislature, that we were going to require this assessment, that we could rest assured that we would have valid, reliable information. Isn't that what the argument was?

SENATOR DIERKS: That is.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And this bill takes away the requirement that an assessment be made.

SENATOR DIERKS: No.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Isn't that true?

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, it does not take that...what it does is it makes it discretionary.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And that means that there no longer is a requirement. Well, let me say it a different way. Without this bill, there was a mandate that the assessment be made. With this bill, the mandate is taken away, and the director may conduct this assessment, or the director may not. And if the director chooses not to, there's nothing in the law with your