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LB 305

it would basically remove energy costs out from under the restricted funds. And we've talked about this before. It seems to me, I think we discussed this briefly on General File. Energy costs, for the purposes of this subsection, would include, but are not limited to, electricity, natural gas, oil, gasoline, diesel fuel, or related energy costs. Again, this might seem to be contradictory to what we have just talked about. But the point that I'm trying to make is, I think that we need to look at all facets of this. I do believe that, in certain circumstances, that some school districts are well under their levy limits but are unable to pay for things such as teacher salaries. And while I think that there's many ways to do this, I do believe that there's some efficiencies that could be wrought out of the system. I also think that this would help them, some school districts in a particular area as well. We've all seen the price of gasoline increase exponentially, the price of natural gas. Although we haven't seen in this part of the country electricity increase significantly, in some parts of the country it has. But we have seen other energy costs increase. And I do think there are some school districts that are having a hard time because these are under their restricted funds. So again, this is an amendment, actually, I cointroduced with Senator Jensen. He had this on to the bill, an amendment to the bill, and I talked to him about this, in the event Senator Maxwell's amendment is adopted, that this would be in there as well. Again, I don't think that this is a contradiction to the amendment that I introduced before. I think that it's part of looking at the problem globally. I don't think throwing money at the teacher salaries is going to solve it, although they may need additional monies. I think we need to look at whole different directions that this problem, and come up with some resolution. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. You've heard the opening on the Bourne amendment, AM2074 to AM2055 offered by Senator Maxwell to LB 305. Open for discussion. Senator Beutler, did I turn your light off accidentally? Did you wish to speak? Okay. Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I did sign onto this amendment. It is exactly the