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LB 657

plugging the hole with his finger. The hole can get bigger and the finger doesn't. That is what is happening here. I don't want to take a lot of time on this. I don't know who else is going to speak on it, but I will tell you that this is a very serious amendment. The Governor does not support any amendment that diminishes the General Fund, and this does, by the amount of 2 cents out of the 34 cents that flows from tobacco. However, he is for a 2.5-cent cut, which is the money out of LB 657, but he doesn't want it diminished beyond that. The difficulty is, and I...I think you all know this, the Governor doesn't have a vote in this body; we do. We also have the responsibility of seeing to it that the assets of the state are preserved, and right now this is a battle that we are losing. The amount of deferred maintenance grows every year, and while we have budget strictures it will continue to do so. This is merely making the finger a little bit bigger to plug the hold in the dike and I ask that you support this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Tyson. Senator Beutler, on the Tyson amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Members of the Legislature, just to remind you that the amendment is not supported by the proponents of the bill. It is not a bad amendment. It's just bad in the context of this particular bill. It needs to be done at a point in time when you can build these things into a budget. If you are going to put two more million dollars, at this point in time, without preparation on the budget side, you're going to put additional pressure on A bills this year given the fact that the Governor does not want to expand or increase the size of the budget any further than he and we have already done. So, given your reaction to the overrides, I assume you too do not want to put more pressure on A bills, and that's what you would be doing with this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Thompson, on the Tyson amendment to LB 657.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I don't support the Tyson amendment because I believe we need to find an alternative to taking the money directly from