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LB 814

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Members of the Legislature, I'm voting to suspend the rule with my eyes wide open. I know very well that I may oppose what is being offered. I have not had a chance to read all of the amendment that is being presented, but I've heard enough, I've read enough of the amendment to have some questions I would like to have answered. So I will vote to give them the opportunity to run their horse around the track. The only thing that suspending the rule will do is allow them to offer to us, the rest of the body, an amendment that will replace what is in a current bill. So I hope there will be enough votes to suspend this rule so that we can have a discussion and receive some enlightenment on this issue.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. Speaker, members, I think my comments are going to go, at the moment, to the process. And I'm going to complain a little bit. I started hearing about this issue this morning. It's a very, very complex issue; heard from both sides; was handed pieces of paper; had time to read some of them; kept looking on my machine for language that I knew we might have to consider this afternoon. At a quarter of twelve, I finally found the language on my machine, read through it, tried to take it to my staff. They had gone to lunch--pity. Came back from lunch, tried to talk to my staff about it, tried to find out what various provisions of it meant. They couldn't figure them out. I still haven't figured them out. And I don't think it's appropriate for us to be conducting work on what everybody says is a serious subject under those kinds of constraints. I think, frankly, the better procedure at the moment would be to bracket the bill till yesterday, perhaps, and then come back after we've had time to figure this issue out. Now that...I make these comments with deference to the persons who have sat on Natural Resources and, perhaps, know what this amendment does, although I don't think this is precisely what came out of Natural Resources either. This is Select File. If we get this wrong, we'll have very little opportunity to straighten it out. And it does seem to me to be a very complex subject. I, frankly, wish we could take this up on another day,