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LB 407, 759

Senator Chambers.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I rise in opposition to this amendment. Although I do think that the American Bar Association should give Senator Brashear some kind of an award, I don't know what kind, we'll call it the Kermit, for generating business. The way to be safe under this is to hire a real estate appraiser before the fact, get at least three bids, all of which are in excess of 100 percent of the appraisal, and then, of course, get a friendly appraiser to come in afterwards. This is unworkable. If you go the county assessor route...and I would probably assume that you would not...you would pay for that forever. You are likely to, in any event. Otherwise you get into a tangle with the Department of Revenue, who wants their money. And then you can appeal until the cows come home, and you won't get your money. I would also make another observation. And this is off the point. But Senator Landis said that he negotiated with the taxpayers. He did not. He did no such thing. He negotiated with the tax collectors. Companies don't pay taxes. Companies collect taxes. The consumer pays the tax. Senator Landis did not negotiate with them. All of these long list of amendments that we have here and are going to talk about for the rest of the day, I suppose, overlook one thing. We have an amendment coming up that was formerly, I believe, a Senator Landis amendment. It is now a Senator Brashear amendment, and it has to do with death taxes, which is a way of telling people that we don't want economic development here. Please stay away. We threaten them, if you don't stay away, and you die here, tough on you, tough on your estate, tough on your relatives, tough on all those that you gave a bequest to. We want the money, and we got first grabs. What we're talking about here are ways of raising money when we don't need to. Senator Wehrbein asked for a list of cuts that we could make. Let's go back to the original copy of LB 407. But back to Senator Brashear's amendment. This is at least unworkable. At least. At most, it is a way to be entangled with your improvement, your renovation, for long after the joy of it wears off. And when you come to companies that are doing renovation and might want to go through this process, it's easier to build someplace else. I'll give the balance of my time back to the Chair.