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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 540, 759

of legislation and I intend to support that wholeheartedly, and I hope the rest of the body will take a long and serious look at what she has to offer. It didn't get out of committee either, but it's a great piece of legislation and it's fair. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Aguilar. Senator Kruse, on the Stuthman amendment.

SENATOR KRUSE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I stand to oppose this Stuthman amendment because it seems to me too early to take things off the table. I have a lot of sympathy for the arguments being made and certainly am sitting here weighing, trying to figure out what is fair. But we've got to keep a package together there. We've got to keep our options open and, to me, now is the time to keep those options open. Seemed to me that when we were turning our back on the alcohol tax, we were closing our options. That's not what we should be doing. And the other point that I would make is that if we don't do this then we are hurting the very people we claim to be helping, because the cost will shift. It will shift to families, it will shift to education, it will shift to property taxes and those who own these homes that are being repaired pay property taxes. We have at this point to recognize that the costs are not going to go away.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I also stand in opposition to this amendment. I would like to say that 3 percent of the people in this state pay 22 percent of the property taxes. That's the farmers. There are exemptions for ag. I think there's good reasons for it. But if we don't broaden the sales tax base and get a few more people involved in paying taxes, the burden is going to stay on property or you're going to have to cut state aid to schools. And, quite frankly, I think my school districts are going to scramble with LB 540. They'll survive and they're making adjustments, but if you took another \$56 million out of state aid to schools, why, I think some people would change their mind on this, even some of the people this tax might be imposed upon. So, like I said,