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will have an impact as far as the necessity of increasing the sales tax come June 1. So if you want to make a cut, do not tie that cut with the revenue shortfall that we are currently experiencing because they are totally unrelated and will have no impact.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Richard Peterson, pardon me, it is Howard Peterson. Did you want to talk before you close? Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, I would just like to echo what Senator Warner said. A tax increase is inevitable. The amount may be in dispute, at least as to whether or not the sales tax increase will have to be, but the current revenue situation puts us in a situation that we are going to have to take unprecedented fiscal steps in order just to sustain ourselves for the next six months. So I don't think that issue really is quite what we are addressing here. What we are addressing here is how to bring the budget back into balance with the last set of revenue projections or the revenue goal set by resolution pursuant to Rule 8, and in order to do that, there are different options available. Senator Peterson offers one, one that I would suggest we reject. Senator Warner and the Appropriations Committee will be offering another and in that one are things such as the suggestions of Senator Vickers and others that have come up to defer certain things, to defer the hiring of new people, perhaps to defer some construction, to look at balances left in certain accounts and utilize those. I think in a question of priorities the Appropriations Committee option is the one that is the least painful in terms of cuts and the one that I think has the greatest depth of information behind it. So I would urge that one reject the kind of simplistic approach here and go with the Appropriations Committee list that provides really a deferral of those things which probably could wait, those things that the Governor in some cases has suggested not be included, those things that has been indicated now with the fiscal information we have to indicate that there are available funds or lower rate of expenditure, and those things such as the renovation of legislative hearing room that certainly could wait a year. So I would hope we would defer this amendment, defeat this amendment and accept the Appropriations Committee alternative.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Newell. The question has been called for, do I see five hands? I do. All those in favor of ceasing debate will vote aye, opposed vote nay.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting yes.

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