

increase their property tax revenue. It has nothing to do with their spending. Thank you. Correct the record, his lovely wife came from, but he's obviously closely connected to my father and his uncles.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Witek, followed by Senators Beutler, Maurstad, Robinson, Stuhr and Avery.

SENATOR WITEK: Madam Chairman, members of the body, I guess what I wanted to tell you was about a discussion I had with an individual yesterday who was talking to me about the budget and she said, why is it you and Senator Avery are coming up with all the amendments to cut the budget and nobody else is? And I guess first of all, Senator Avery and I aren't coming up with amendments to cut the budget necessarily, the budgets that all of these organizations lived on up to this point is that one figure and these are all increases that we're working on now, increases in their budgets. We're trying to back away from some of the increases, maybe not make them as large of increases in those areas, and so the idea that we're actually trying to cut away at someone's budget is false and I hope people who are listening to the Legislature have come to the realization as I have, that they don't intend to cut anything. This isn't going to go; more than likely any of the amendments that follow are not going to go. They're not going to cut away from the increase that they're doing this year in the budget. I'm disappointed in that. I wish we were actually doing some cutting, but I've been disappointed in several of the bills that have passed this year. I guess it's disappointing to me as a legislator because it's a time-consuming process and I had hoped that we would be more successful in paring back on the budget and at least just cutting back on the increase in the budget, if not actually decreasing the budget. I know the letters that I'm getting from my constituents is telling me to either freeze or cut the budget. And when they talk about budget cuts, they talk about it like regular people refer to budget cuts. In your family budget when you make a budget cut, you actually take something out of your budget because you can no longer afford to pay for it. When we talk about budget cuts on this floor as in Senator Avery's bill, we're talking about cutting back on an increase in the individual department's budget. So I will support Senator Avery in this, knowing full well that we won't get the amount of votes that we need to pass this or probably any amendment after this. I know the Appropriations Committee