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March 17, 2003 LB 608

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Landis. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Landis, as Chair of Revenue, would offer committee amendment, AM0621. (Legislative Journal page 708.)

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Landis, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you. I'll complete my thought and move on. Mr. Speaker, I've got ten minutes to make this introduction, is that right?

SPEAKER BROMM: That's correct.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you. If you take a look at this chart, you'll see that the corporate income tax has gradually gone down as a percent of the total state receipts. It's also true with respect to the individual income tax. In fact, the downward slide is even greater. It's even greater. Now there are multiple reasons for that, but one significant one is a billion three hundred million dollars of tax credits that we've given. Individual taxpayers didn't get those tax credits, corporations did. The end result after 15 or 17 years is individuals pay more, companies pay less. Now, look, if those companies were here and this was fresh new activity, people drawn in from the rest of the country to do business here, it would be great and it would be worth every dime. But it hasn't proven to be. It's proven not only to meet those handful of circumstances, but the thresholds and the way that we wrote it or the fact that they haven't changed in 17 years has meant that people that were doing business and expanded their business quite naturally were able to make use of this program. And when they did, they moved from being a taxpayer to being a nontaxpayer. And when they moved from being a taxpayer in this state to being a nontaxpayer, it shifted responsibility to the rest of the citizens. It's why your farmers are angry about LB 775. It's why, when you went door to door, you heard people say, why can't you make the corporations pay their fair share? It's why when you go to a neighborhood meeting in a big city, they'll say, wait a second, what's fair about one sector of the economy