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FLOOR DEBATE

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Project by project, it will be in the paper. But what won't be in the paper is what they got for it. Now here's the order of events on disclosure. I've got this amendment which, given the tenor of the discussion around the floor, I think I can predict the fate of this idea. Shortly thereafter, I think Senator Brashear is going to have an amendment to strike the committee's amendment and to replace it with some language that the business community wrote, and they wrote it and they stuck it in the Governor's bill and the Revenue Committee killed the bill. So that's where we're going with this. We're going...the road is dividing here. In fact, where we are right now is a pretty good deal. I mean I'd take what we've got in LB 608, but I do owe it to that set of constituents who I care about who ask me about LB 775 to put what their frustration is into legislative form for us to vote up or down. You know what they want to know? They want to know what the companies are getting. That's it. It's not the total number of employees above \$30,000 and below \$30,000. It's not the geographical distribution. It's quid pro quo, and they want to know the "quo." They're going to get hit over the head with the "quid" in the paper; they want to know the "quo." So it says: For all applications files...filed on or after the effective date of this act, the report shall also contain the total amount of benefits used by the taxpayers in the year. The information shall be reported by each individual taxpayer, aggregating credits used and sales tax refunds used during the year into a single number. The objection to this concept was, when we were previously asking for information, if you ask for certain kinds of information, you can reverse engineer and figure out what the company was doing, what they were paying people, what they paid for equipment, and that this would give a competitive edge. If you link and put into one pile, however, the wage tax credits, the sales tax credits, and the personal property tax credits into one pile, you can't reverse engineer. You can't get anything valuable from this data other than how much benefit did they get. You can't figure out their work force. You can't figure out what machinery they bought and for how much. You can't reverse engineer. That argument is out the window, and that argument is superfluous and inappropriate. It's specious on this amendment. Question is, should we know what they get or not? And that's a pretty rough decision. I understand why