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SENATOR DW. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give my time to Senator Brashear.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, thank you, Senator Dwite Pedersen. I appreciate it. The reason for examining this subject matter in this way is to understand where we are and why we're doing this and, again, I think Senator Landis and the Revenue Committee for bringing about this kind of substantive discussion. I hope this is the faithful discharge of our public service. This is simply the wrong time to want to drag all this information out of the executive branch of government. I haven't heard anybody acknowledge that we're even talking about separation of powers here. We have a Department of Revenue. The Department of Revenue functions in the executive branch of government. It is under the auspices and jurisdiction of our Governor. We have elected people in the executive branch. They're selected by the people. This is their responsibility. Traditionally, as a matter of policy, it's always been their responsibility to see that our tax laws, including our incentive laws, are enforced; that violators are prosecuted to the full extent of the law, and that all monies which belong to the people are received for the benefit of the people in terms of revenue. The model, there's nothing new here, except that for some reason we've decided that we could bring something marvelous to this debate, under penalty of Class IV felony. Of course, now we're going to have a Class IV felony if the Legislature uses this confidential information incorrectly. Does that give you some sense of ill ease that we're going to drag it across from the executive branch of government to the legislative branch of government so we can see how good we are and how much we do with it? And in a later conversation with you, I'll talk about the fact, believe me, I admire and respect our Legislative Fiscal Office, this simply isn't their province. Our Department of Revenue is there to audit tax returns and to enforce tax policy and to collect monies. The Legislative Fiscal Office is here to work at the implementation of the policy of the state, and I want to respectfully suggest to you that this is not the time that we should be doing this. This is a time when we need to be a part of the marketplace,