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increase in the minimum wage. But if you study it carefully, what you see is it's states basically on the East Coast and the West Coast. Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts have bumped theirs up, and California and Oregon on the West Coast have bumped theirs up. And all the states in the middle are just living with the federal number. And I think it's time for one of the states in the middle to start jumping out and saying, no, that's not satisfactory. We can do better than that for our workers. And I think it's highly appropriate that we address this and offer at least some minor adjustment to the minimum wage. My amendment...if you study Senator Beutler's bill, he's got two brackets in there. The first kick in minimum wage would occur on October 1 of this year and would take us to \$5.80. And then a year or so later, or the following April, I guess it is, he's got a second increment that takes us to \$6.30. Well, that \$6.30 would put us in league with the East Coast and the West Coast. I don't know if we can go that far. So I'm suggesting as a compromise, maybe we accept Senator Beutler's first increment, take us to \$5.80. At least we've done something for our lowest-wage workers. It's not much, but it's something. And then perhaps on Select we can talk about whether or not we want to do something beyond that. And maybe we'll stop right there. I don't know. But I think Senator Beutler has made some very valid points about why it's highly appropriate to adjust this. I think we can be fair to our lowest-wage workers. And again, if we're going to have a minimum wage, if you believe in the basic concept of minimum wage, then I think you've got to concede that that minimum ought to be fair. And when you set it and then don't touch it for years, it's been diluted. So I'd ask you to support this amendment. It's a compromise. It's not everything Senator Beutler wants, but it is a start. I think it's fair to the business community, who are also hurting. And it does bring at least a measure of some economic justice to lowest-tier workers. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Foley. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion of the Foley amendment. Senator Cunningham, followed by Senators Smith and Beutler. Senator Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Well, thank you, Senator Cudaback and