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proposing in the first step. But I will tell you that we're going to ratchet up the cost of goods, whether it's a meal in a restaurant, or whether it's a good that sells. And that means that in fact people are going to need more money...it's called inflation...to purchase the goods. So what do they really gain because, in fact, they made more money but it costs them more? We ratchet up the cost for everyone above them, as Senator Cunningham has explained, because in fact with their skill level and their experience, they expect to be paid at a higher level. So I see that all we do is create inflation here. We could create some situations where people lose jobs. And while it would be nice to do, I'm not sure that we're in an economy that can afford this. Thank you, Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Stuthman, followed by Senator Tyson.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I would also like to echo the comments that Senator Cunningham had just given. But I have a little bit of a problem. I'm in the agricultural field. And I would like to direct one of my questions to the introducer of this bill, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, would you respond to a question?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Sure.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: In some of your comments, you stated that, you know, if these wages were increased and the majority of them or everyone passes them down, how, in my industry, in my business, in agriculture and farming, how am I able to pass this increase down if I have to give my employees an increase in wages?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I was negligent in not mentioning a part of the current law, which is that the minimum wage doesn't affect anybody in agriculture. Should have been the first thing I said, but it wasn't, and I apologize. But agriculture in all its dimensions is excluded from the state minimum wage law.