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LB 759

spending. And if any of the items that would be...any of the funded items that would be affected by this amendment, if they truly are state priorities they can be addressed and most appropriately by the General Fund. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM PRESIDING

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Quandahl. Senator Landis. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I strongly oppose this amendment. You know, when you come to a period of crisis like this it's important that you have the public with you and that you're informing the public all the time, and that there's public input into each and every thing that you do. It's been a long time since I've seen an amendment proposed on the floor that has such broad implications that has not had a public hearing and gone through our processes. Of all of these earmarks that would be changed, and there are nine or ten of them, only one of them has been in bill form and allowed your constituents to come in and say what they think about it. You are...it is so important that...it has been important for the people who have come before the Appropriations Committee to have an opportunity to discuss and at least get out their feelings about what it is that we're doing and the cuts that we're making. But when you start doing this, doing things on the floor, and the public has no input and the implications are broad, I think that you're putting at risk the reputation of the institution to some extent. Now Senator Quandahl, like all the rest of us, had a right to bring a bill at the beginning of the session and completely overhaul this system. He could have done that. Each one of us could have proposed a bill on any one of these subjects. We could have done that. But we didn't. We could have put them on the table. We all knew...we all know what it takes to put something on the table if it's in statutory form. You put in a bill that changes the statutory language and you give everybody an opportunity to come in and speak to the committee and remind you of the old arguments that put these things in place in the first place, instead of us trying to dredge up on the floor, without prior notice, the arguments, the pros and the cons and everything that went into making all of