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LB 759

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Friend. Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. Basically, I'm getting up just to talk about where I'm at with this. I don't believe that we're going to get out of here without turning every stone. And there will be some pain and there will be some hurt in feelings, in job losses, and lots of other areas. I'm supportive of LB 759, and not because I'm supportive of taxes but because I don't believe that we are going to get out of here without raising some taxes. I am supportive of LB 759 on General File and probably Select File, but it's going to have to be a lot of other changes before I would ever vote for it on Final Reading. And when I say other changes, I mean cuts that have not been done and not even been recommended at this point. I see the administration as not wanting to raise taxes but I don't know what they call it when they put it off on the local governments, schools, cities, and counties, and they raise their property taxes. That is a raise in taxes to me. And I will be on a fixed income in the next five to ten years, and I don't support that. But I do know that we have institutions that haven't even been looked at by the administration, and other areas that haven't even been touched that are government, state government areas that can be and should not be held as sacred cows. You know my involvement with the Department of Corrections. At this point, I understand that they don't take a cut. They get a 13 percent increase, and the Appropriations Committee, in my understanding, has left that stand. You won't get a vote from me on either side of this tax increases, 10 percent cuts to schools and stuff like that, if we're going to continue to go along that course. And that's just an area I know something about. I see what we've done to higher education if we stick with the 10 percent cut. It's like having three cars and we took a wheel off of each one them, so we've got three of them hobbling around, instead of closing one down and putting four tires on each of the two we're going to keep and having two good ones. Them are the ideas that I think should have been brought to us. And them are the ideas that I hope are going to come up once the appropriations bill gets here. I'm supporting this particular tax increase bill on General File, and I probably will Select File because if we do