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FLOOR DEBATE

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We know that during this time of troubles, our buildings are going to deteriorate, because maintenance is one of the areas that are going to be skimped on. We've heard it from the university and the college systems. When it comes to key academic areas, or taking care of these things, the preventive maintenance is just not going to happen. And it will be a react to the problems that are there, and we aren't going to get to them quick enough. We're going to have more problems as a result. But this is a compromise among the members of the Appropriations Committee, after considerable thought. I know probably some of the members of the committee are disappointed that we've had to backtrack on this. But times are hard. And as Senator Vrtiska said, you know, we just can't do what we should be doing. So I just urge you to support the compromise in AM1347. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Beutler on the committee amendments.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, I just wanted to take two seconds to...I guess to repeat now, because Senator Janssen has said what I wanted to say basically. Just that you take note that what should be one of the most fundamental conservative principles of finance, we're violating. And the irony of it is, we just got it established a few years ago, that is, putting aside money on a regular basis to renew and to rebuild buildings at that time when they wear out. And to me, this was, right alongside the property tax, one of the two most important things that...one of the...not two most important, but one of the most important things that we had done in recent years, in terms of establishing fiscal responsibility. And yet here we've had to do this in order to meet this budget crisis. And this affects mostly state agencies. And one might argue that the first thing we should take care of are the basic things relating to state agencies, such as repair and renewal funds. So the point is, we're making a big sacrifice on...with respect to state agencies in this regard. We're doing something that's probably not wise if we had...is definitely not wise if we did it long-term. And pretty soon, some of the local political sub...aid to local political subdivisions is going to come along. And I just want you to realize, we're hitting both