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LB 283, 407

Pedersen.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I, too, Senator Chambers, am feeling some of that electricity going on. First of all, I want to address what Senator Wehrbein was saying a little bit ago, those people want cuts, and it goes along with what Senator Chambers was talking about. Yeah, some of this should have been done on General File. But I've been here 11 years. In 11 years I have seen this body over and over again file amendments on Select File, and I've seen a lot of them amendments filed on the same day the Select File bill came up on the agenda. Now I can guarantee you that I have some amendments for LB 407 for Select File, but I can also guarantee I'm not going to file them until the day they show up on this floor because I dread having to answer to five and six bureaucrats lined up side-by-side out there more so than I do the lobbyists. The lobbyists, we hire them, whatever work force or whatever group you belong to. The bureaucrats work for us and they will fight anything we have to do with cuts. And that's why I don't want to file it, because I don't want to put up with that till the time comes. And I've seen that done over and over and over again in the 11 years I've been here. I know some other people have amendments. I don't know if they're going to file them or not, but I guarantee I'm going to file some amendments. Maybe we'll vote them up or down. I've always accepted the vote without any problems, without any pain and without, you know, any vengeance. But that aside of itself, talking about Senator Jensen's amendment, I wholeheartedly support it. I think it's good. I like Senator Landis' bill, probably more than he does also, and I think this amendment is good, not just because it taxes alcohol but it uses some of the money to treat those areas that we need to be working on, as Senator Thompson talked about, so we do not have to come back year, after year, after year. That doesn't mean they're all going to get well, but there are some that do get well, and get them out of the system so we can make room for more. But this amendment I think is something that is right and we've needed to do it for a long time. I've signed on to Senator Jensen's bill (sic) and I am going to wholeheartedly support it and hope you do too. Thank you.