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LB 283

on that? It would be more than double. We are not keeping up with inflation in terms of dollars, but far more important, in this tight budget year, this is the only way we're going to get treatment money, and community corrections is also a part of that and it's just...it all fits together, this is the only way we're going to get them funds...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR KRUSE: ...to save us future costs. So I urge a vote for it on behalf of future budget cuts. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kruse. Senator Landis, on the Jensen amendment to LB 283.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, the Jensen amendment contains about 80 percent of increase...increases of about 80 percent in the taxes. Secondly, it is an earmarked plan for a very worthy cause, but then essentially it's new spending. If I understand my new colleagues, some of the...at least some of the words that I heard here, that may be going in the wrong direction. The point that I want to make is that my preference, and I think it's an institutional preference that the Revenue Committee has historically played, is do revenue in an unearmarked General Fund fashion, and then allow every spending priority to compete with each other. Now my goal is to try to give Roger Wehrbein and the Appropriations Committee as much support and tools that I can to support the budgeting process, which is a competitive process. And so I vote against the Jensen amendment because I think the tax increases are out of whack. Eighty percent increase is unreasonable, don't reflect what I think is the sound judgment of the committee amendments. I also am against the earmarking, even as I admit the factual basis of what Senator Jensen and Senator Kruse have just said. I think everything that they've said about dollar costs, the impact of alcohol is true. We don't lock up alcoholics, however. We lock up criminals. Alcohol contributes to that criminality, but we don't lock up alcoholics. We lock up criminals. Our criminal justice system needs to have alcohol abuse, drug abuse, absolutely, but it's not a subsidy of the industry when we lock