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LB 540

least. And I hope people understand that that's why, first of all, the local spending keeps going up, despite property tax relief, and that's why state aid is wreaking havoc with our budget because we are at the mercy of the spending patterns of hundreds of districts, and we're committed to matching with state aid dollars. We say, hey, low spenders or high spenders, you got to catch up with them. Here, spend another dollar and we'll match it and keep going.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR MAXWELL: We'll go with you, right up the ladder. Did you say one minute, Mr. President?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Yes, I did, Senator. Thank you.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you. Well, I think...I hope that I've made the point. I'll be glad to visit about it more if anybody wants to. It's important to me because facing up to the fact about how state aid operates and what it does locally and what it does to our budget is necessary for people to finally reach the conclusion that, you know, we can do this for one more year because it's too late to undo it now, but that's it. We have got to get out of this state aid mess that we put ourselves into. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Maxwell. Senator Wehrbein, on the Bourne amendment to LB 540. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes. Mr. President and members of the body, I'm going to be brief on this. I'm going to oppose the amendment. I don't mind educating all of us or the public or this body on the actions that we're taking in here. I'm reluctant to put it in statute at this point. The way I understand it, it does imply we're going to have to recognize it in the out years. And that has serious ramifications if we do that at this point. There's lots of things can happen over the next two years to make these adjustments, to change. We recognize that, but as near as I am told, and I'm going to have Senator Raikes talk about this some more; I'll give you the rest of my time, Senator Raikes. Once this is in statute, it must be