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LB 759

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Synowiecki.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Senator Bromm, members, I rise to support, I believe, Senator Stuthman's amendment. I think that this tax essentially is disproportionate, and impacts lower- to middle-class homeowners. A large portion of my district is comprised of that class of people. And I strongly feel that this would be a "decentive" (sic) to provide for home improvements, and, you know, essentially degrade the neighborhoods in our residential neighborhoods. And I just think as we proceed with these sale taxes...sales tax broadening, that we do need to be fair, and not to focus on these class...on the middle- to lower-class individuals, those that can't afford to put themselves in a new home. Obviously, if you're living in a newer home, you don't need to do the reconstruction that is necessary. Senator Stuthman, I was wondering if you can submit to a line of questioning, or, one question, actually?

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Stuthman?

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Yes, I would be glad to.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Theoretically, if a homeowner does do some improvements to their residence, again, theoretically, wouldn't that raise the value of the home, and therefore increase the property tax on that individual residence?

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Yes, it would, very much so. Because when you do anything to your personal property, such as a home, you improve it. That adds value to it. There will be an increase on the valuation schedule on your property tax, and that will be all added into, and you will be paying more taxes on that property, not just one year, but for many years to come.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. And I do think that's an important aspect that needs to be emphasized, that these renovations done will be impacted on the property tax levy as well. So I appreciate the amendment Senator Stuthman brings, and will support it. Thank you.