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LB 408, 759

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

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I...kind of like Senator Bourne, none of this stuff is any good. We don't like any of these taxes. And the package is hitting lots of different people in lots of different ways, kind of stepping on everybody's toes. I think that if you take this \$56 million out, you got to find another \$56 million. We still either need that in cuts or in more revenue. As a member of the Revenue Committee, I think we need to have a package that fills the hole. We still don't have substantive amendments on LB 408 to reduce the budget. We need this revenue. I don't like construction sales tax, but I think that this is a part of the package that we're going to have to support. And I rise in support of the underlying bill. So I'm going to be in opposition to this amendment.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Bromm, members of the Legislature, let me just add a couple of dimensions to what has been said. It has been said that, for example, when you...when your home is improved, your property taxes go up. Yes, they do. The value of your home has gone up. Fortunately, you're in a position that you're able to make that kind of improvement. But the other part of it is that if we don't have these revenues in the package, we will cut aid to political subdivisions, and we will tend to drive property taxes up anyway. And it won't be for those that have just improved their property and the value of the property, but it will be for those who have made no improvement to their property. So that property tax works two ways. And in a broad, general sense, it seemed to me that there was some justification for this kind of a tax. Because overall, the industry that benefits most from low property taxes is the building industry, the building industry and the real estate industry. They have an interest in keeping property taxes down. They have an interest in seeing that we have the revenue to continue to aid the local political subdivisions, especially the school districts, in the way that we do. They do not benefit from the levy going up from \$1.00 to \$1.04, for example, much