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SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...if there ever is a time to do it, with respect to this industry. And yet, we hear this quibbling. We hear this not wanting to be a part of the overall tax solution. I hope you'll take a bigger, broader view of this thing and not get bogged down in these arguments that are really not arguments if you look at all sides and all dimensions of the argument. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Preister, on the Stuthman amendment, AM1627.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Senator Stuthman, you can count me as agreeing on your amendment. I do support it. I support it, although as I say that and I'm going to do that I recognize the pain that all of us are experiencing as we do this. I fully appreciate the struggle that Senator Brashear went through in putting this amendment together and in doing something that I think largely goes counter-intuitive to his philosophical beliefs. I think Senator Brashear would much rather not have any of these taxes and would not...would prefer not to be taxing these industries or this labor. But he's looking at it from a broader view and, like the rest of us, struggling with how do we provide for the needs of the citizens of the state and those needs growing, and do we take away from the students, particularly the education that's a bedrock of our state and our country? Or do we provide some sources of funding to maintain the high standards of education that we have? The choices are not good choices. I see colleagues and friends going, as in this case, completely against what they would normally want to do and what they would prefer to do, but doing it because none of the choices are good, none of the circumstances that we're currently presented with in the economy that we have before us are the ones that we would prefer. It's not a good situation. We are being forced, as policymakers, to make very hard and very difficult choices, much