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LB 759

more difficult than the public believes or sees or understands. As they look at it, it's just those people doing it to us again, when it's certainly not that. And for anyone who's here and sees it firsthand and is living it, we know that it's very unlike that and is very different from that. These are difficult policy decisions. We are making them. We will get through this. The economy will improve, but until we get to that point there are some very hard decisions that are having to be made, and we will be making them. I appreciate the struggle that everyone makes in making each of these individual decisions and each of us is having to make those on each vote that we take on LB 759, as well as on all of the other budget-related issues that we're dealing with. I appreciate the challenge of making those decisions, as I too struggle with them. On Senator Stuthman's amendment, AM1627, I will be supporting him, and I do so because there are essentially four things that I have difficulty putting a tax on. One is food, because I think that's very essential to people, although I could easily have put it on junk food, on pop, on water, on things that are nonessential. The other thing that I have difficulty putting a tax on that I think is essential is a person's home. That, too, is very essential, and repairing that home is a part of what we're looking at here. A third component is a person's transportation, their mode of getting to their employment, something that also has become essential to people and to their livelihood. And the fourth thing is healthcare, and that's something that I think is also essential to people's well-being. Those four areas philosophically are just very difficult for me to tax, because I think they're so essential to everyone's living, their well-being and...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR PREISTER: ...I say quality of life, but in some instances it isn't even quality of life. It's just a very basic essential life. For that reason, I'm supporting this amendment. Thank you.

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