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LB 407, 540

are okay. The taxes we talk about, income taxes, we talk about sales taxes, and we talk about property taxes. And many times on the floor, when we talk about taxes, we only talk about income taxes and sales taxes. Property taxes don't get talked about. People say, I don't want to raise taxes. What taxes don't you want to raise? I mean, let's be specific. Do we want to raise income tax, sales tax, or is it property tax? And when we come back on this issue...and I could support LB 540, and I reluctantly did, but I will still continue to do that. But to go this far, I probably am not going to go this far. I don't feel that I can take the cut in education and put it back on my property tax owners. We have just, hopefully, come out of a drought. Have we? We don't know yet. We've had some nice rains this spring, but we've got several months of summer in front of us. Our farmers have not made any money for the last two years. If they break even this year, that will be a good thing, and maybe they'll be able to stay in business. But I don't think that we can go to them and expect them to pay more property taxes because we're not willing on the floor to raise income taxes hopefully back to the 1996 level and broaden the sales tax base or maintain more sales tax. Because of that, I am not going to support this. Because I don't want my property owners to have to continue to bear the burden of all of this. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator McDonald. Senator Louden on the Raikes amendment to AM1881.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members of the body. On Senator Raikes' amendment to LB 540 (sic), I have mixed concerns with that. First of all, whether you have it at \$1.04, \$1.05, or whatever number you have, we have some school districts that don't receive any state aid anyway, in the 49th Legislative District. So whatever number you choose won't make that much difference to them. But there are some districts that are relying on state aid considerably. And whenever any of that is cut, why, that just twists the bayonet a little bit more on them. The...makes a bigger problem for them to find some other revenue. By raising it from \$1.04 to \$1.05, or, when we started out at \$1.00 and raised it up to where we are now, one thing it will do is take a little bit of the heat off the school