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but we're in a crunch right now so cut us some slack. We've got to do some temporary tax increases and then next year we'll come in, we'll make the tough decisions, we'll make the fundamental reforms so that we don't have to do this kind of thing again. And Senator Schrock mentioned this morning that those who voted for the tax package last year sailed through their elections. He's right. It's true. That's a fact. Maybe the public cut us some slack because we promised, we pledged, that those would be temporary tax increases; maybe not. I don't know and maybe nobody ever pays a price at the ballot box for last year or this year if that's what we do this year. Whether or not anyone pays that kind of price, I think it feeds the worst stereotypes about politics and politicians. Now I've heard the arguments. I'm not persuaded by them. One I've heard is, well, we're not really breaking the promise; we're just exercising our option to renew these tax increases once they've run their course. Once the temporary tax increases run their course, we're just going to renew them. Another one is, well, actually all we're doing is extending existing tax rates. I'll tell you what. I'll invite anybody who wants to, to come into District 9 with me to a neighborhood association or any place else and make that argument. May be able to run that here, but come on in and argue that to the citizenry at large and we'll see how that goes. The most justifiable argument, an argument that I respect, is, all right, we're breaking the pledge that we made last year but, darn it, that's leadership. We said we were going to make tough decisions. Well, that's one of the tough decisions. We're going to have to break that pledge and make those temporary tax increases permanent. It's an argument that I respect but I am not persuaded by that one. I don't think...let me phrase it this way. I think extending the LB 1085 package is what you do to avoid...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR MAXWELL: ...the really tough decision. We're contemplating extending those taxes because we don't want to face the main budget problem before us. I haven't given up hope that somehow, in all this process, we will end up at a position that I staked out that does not require any more cuts to higher education, does not require any more cuts to K-12, and puts us