

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 14, 2003

LB 407

on a path to fund K-12 at the same level we do now but in a different way. I haven't given up hope that somehow, some way, we might still arrive there, but maybe we first have to go through more trial and tribulation before we arrive at that position. In the meantime, I'll be voting against LB 407. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Maxwell. Senator Kruse.

SENATOR KRUSE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I must respond to Senator Maxwell. In all due respect, I made no promise on LB 1085, not direct, not implied. I voted for it just as it was. I made no promises on the outside. People said, how long is this temporary tax going to last, and I said until our temporary deficit is taken care of. That's what it's about. I have discussed this. I have just completed a series of forums on my district. I got no flack on continuing LB 1085, none whatsoever. It came up several times--is that what's going to happen? And I would throw it back--what do you think ought to happen? In every case, except one person, it was we've got to pay our bills. What's the best way to pay our bills? I think we have to look at the total package and we all have to recognize the pain that's involved in this, and I for one am certainly opposed to a number of the cuts we've taken. But at the same time we're in a desperate situation. We took another cut today, which is really very hard to justify. We took a cut last week, which will cost our taxpayers more than we save. I put it before you. You made that decision. I respect that. But we have cut in every possible way we knew how, within the Appropriations Committee, without crippling somebody. Now we're into the point where we do have to look at whether or not we're crippling. That's not an easy defined line, so we...don't be too presumptuous in declaring where that line is. But it is also responsible, after we have, as Senator Schrock indicated, cut our way halfway through that gap, it is also the responsible thing to do to come up with the revenue package that keeps the state services going, that makes our economic development work, that gives us a firm and clear future. I have no apology to anybody about doing what's necessary on revenue. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kruse. Senator Maxwell.