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LB 408

you. And I don't think we're breaking faith with anything. We are in a budget crisis. This is a cut. This is what everybody is asking for, is a cut. Seems a lot easier to cut women and children's program, low-income people's programs, the blind, the disabled. We've cut all their programs. We've cut the aid programs to the cities and to the counties. We've cut everything. We have cut everything.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Why are we so afraid of an industry that we can't cut a measly 2.8 percent out of a budget that has had no cuts taken to it? It's not fair. I believe we need to take this \$16.9 million and save that portion of our budget, and put it toward the budget crisis. I believe that's what we should do. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Mines.

SENATOR MINES: Call the question, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question before the body is, shall debate cease on FA1361 to AM1849? All in favor of the vote, say aye...or, vote aye, opposed nay. We're voting on ceasing debate on FA1361, offered by Senator Thompson to AM1849. Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 33 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The motion to cease debate was successful. Senator Thompson, you're recognized to close on FA1361.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Amendment FA1361 is a 5 percent cut to the road operating budget. What it means is that the road department budget next year will go from \$545 million to \$573 million. It's still more than they got this year, even with this cut. This is a...represents a 2.8 percent cut, \$16.9 million. And again, their budget will increase in this biennium, even with this amendment, from 545 to 573 million. They will have an increase