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you check in, please? Thank you. And Senator Landis. Senator Thompson, you may continue your closing. And your time is rolling.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you. This amendment is a 10 percent cut. This was my original thought. I thought maybe a 5 percent cut would be more palatable, but apparently the body prefers to vote on a 10 percent cut. Even with a 10 percent cut, the Department of Roads will have a higher budget this year than they did in the last biennium. Even with a 10 percent cut to this particular fund within the Department of Roads, they'll still have more money than they did last year. I can't justify that to the educators in my district. I can't justify that to the people who serve the poor and the disabled in the state. I can't justify that to every other fund that took a cut this year. Everyone else. Some of these people don't have big lobbying interests to come down here and talk to us. So we have to speak for them. The people who won't have help from...with their hearing impairments and their translations and their assistance that they need. People who are blind, who are not going to have help. People who are disabled, who aren't going to have the help they used to have. People who are going to be on waiting lists because we cut their programs, and so now a waiting list has to start up again. I can't believe we aren't willing to schedule a few road projects in a different manner in order to balance this budget. We've asked everyone else to do that. This sector should help. Now, maybe it's just me. Maybe I feel more responsibility to all the issues facing the state. And I don't mean that in a negative way. I guess maybe I distribute my interests a little wider, and I'm a little more willing to look to every sector, and roads isn't one that I consider a sacred cow that can't be touched. I think it's a shame. I think it's a shame that we won't look to this area for a little help with this budget problem. We've asked everyone else to sacrifice. And some of them protested, and they got the sacrifice anyway. Other people came to our committee and said, we're willing to help. We know this is a problem. It's going to cause a problem for us, it's going to cause a problem to the people we serve. But we're willing to help. This is a sector that said, no. I think it's only fair to ask everyone in this budget crisis to help. I understand all your arguments. I made