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LB 608

And have you looked into that factor? Do you have any idea of whether that then drops the wage immediately by a dollar or two or more? I suspect...

SENATOR LANDIS: No.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...that it would, but I don't know.

SENATOR LANDIS: No. It's...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...it's either the growth or loss of not a benchmark, but if wages in counties went up,...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...that percentage will be applied to \$8.25. If wages go down, they would go down. That's true with the index that we have in LB 608. It's true with all the wage indexes, and they generally go up because there's an inflationary pressure. It is not...it does not lower the amounts. You get your percentage by what happened to other wages. Then you incorporate it into the \$8.25 figure. So it has every expectation of going up in whatever years wages generally go up, which is most every year.

SENATOR BEUTLER: So it would...tell me what it would require for that wage standard not to go down. It would require that rural wages stay at least at the level that they're at now?

SENATOR LANDIS: That's right. For anything, if rural wages did not go down, the \$8.25 figure would not go down. If they stayed the same, \$8.25 would stay the same. If rural wages went up 5 percent,...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Time, Senators.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...you'd raise \$8.25 5 percent.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senators Beutler and Landis. The