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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 283

some money early. Probably the value of LB 283 right now is something along the lines of...something a little bit less than a million and a half. It's along the line of \$1.5 million, available this biennium, without, I think, political cost, and, I think, a Governor's signature. That's my best guess, if we don't amend it. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Beutler, on your amendment AM2086 to LB 283.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, the...remember for a moment that as of one week ago, when the Appropriations Committee put before you the bills...the tax bills were put before you, when all of that happened and we sent it over to the Governor, nobody knew anything, nobody counted upon, nobody had anything to say about the federal money coming in, because we didn't know that it would come in, and we didn't know in what amount, and we didn't know with what strings attached. But that money is available. And it is very easy for us to think in the box, save the money. Now, obviously, we don't need this money for cash flow, do we? Because if we had needed it for cash flow, the Appropriations Committee, believe me, would have made sure we had sources to solve our cash flow problems, any likely cash flow problem. And we do have those sources. So it's not a cash flow problem, or we...there's no such problem, or we would have provided for it before. And under this amendment, we had provided for a reserve fund. And now we're, even with this amendment, augmenting the reserve fund by \$50 million, which takes us up to the level of \$165 million or so. That's what has been advertised as the cost of a low-level nuclear waste suit under worst circumstances. So even with this amendment, we are increasing the reserve fund to what some have argued we need it. And you can restore the cuts to higher education and to the K-12 system. Why those cuts? Because those were the last cuts made. That was the last block of cuts made. That was what we wanted to least...that's what we wanted...least wanted to give up. So I'm adding back...I would add back what we least wanted to give up. But I think we need to try to think of the situation beyond the idea of storing up nuts, of keeping money out of circulation, at that time...at this time in our economy, when what we want to do is to try to