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FLOOR DEBATE

January 27, 2004 LB 32

amendments, committee amendments offered by the Natural Resources Committee. I have other amendments besides the committee amendments pending, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Schrock, would you review the committee amendments to LB 32 please. (AM0811, Legislative Journal page 897, First Session, 2003.)

SENATOR SCHROCK: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. LB 32 has become a contentious bill because it does involve new taxes. We have come to the conclusion that probably in its present form or in the amendment that was passed out yesterday that there is probably not the votes to move this bill. So what we want to do is draft another amendment which would give the cities the authority to fund their storm water outside of their levy limits and outside of their budget authority. Now there should be probably some constraints and we need to find out what involvement the NRDs should have. So with this brief explanation, and if somebody really wants to speak to this, I will hold up the bracket motion, we are going to try and draft an amendment, have it prepared, and if the Speaker is willing, we will take an up or down vote on a new proposal come Thursday. But what our amendment will do is give the cities the authority to fund this through property taxes. They will need maybe some levy authority and some budget limitation authority to do that. And then we need to see if we need to also do that for the NRDs and what role the NRDs should do with that. Now we are dealing with a federal mandate. This is not something that we want to do. It's something that we probably have to do. So with that brief explanation of our plans, quite frankly I think if you could either base it on impervious surface and set it up as a utility and have a utility fee; that would be the fairest way to do that. But there are forces out there working against this, that I don't think that's going to happen. So unless somebody wants to speak on this issue right now, we will submit the bracket, the proposal to bracket until Thursday.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator...Senator Jensen, did you wish to speak?

SENATOR JENSEN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature,