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FLOOR DEBATE

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amendment. Open for discussion on that. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Smith, could I ask you a question?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Smith, would you yield to a question from Senator Beutler?

SENATOR SMITH: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: If this amendment is adopted, will you vote for the bill?

SENATOR SMITH: No.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Thank you. Senator Smith doesn't intend to vote for the bill. He doesn't intend to make the bill any better. We're seeing the beginning of a filibuster here. If that's the way this session is going to go, and we're...is that what we're going to do, we're going to filibuster every issue now, and not just Senator Chambers, but all of us are going to get into this? The more the merrier, is that the way it should be, Senator Chambers? We're going to break down. You know, I think the people of the state are going to be particularly hurt. I mean, they're going to be hurt if we don't come up with something to offer them. They're going to think we're silly and unresponsive. But if we don't even bring this to a vote, if it's filibustered, that's going to be even more shocking to the people of the state. If this were a real amendment offered by somebody who was going to vote for the bill and could get others to vote for the bill, and it was part of the negotiating process in the Legislature, then we would all have to seriously look at this amendment. It's not silly on its face. It could be a part of it. But we've worked with different propositions for two years now, several days on the floor, trying to find the right combination, and we finally come back to something simple. And we can go into multiple details. There can be multiple amendments, making reasonable suggestions, but not suggestions that are going to help us get through this issue and get it to the people. The people want something sensible to vote on. So I hope we will make short work of these amendments. I hope the opposition will let us vote on it. Otherwise, this session is