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FLOOR DEBATE

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LR 209

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Roll call vote taken, Legislative Journal page 899.) The vote is 11 ayes, 12 nays on the adoption of Senator Louden's amendment, Mr. President.

SENATOR ENGEL: The amendment fails. Raise the call. We're back...now we're back to the committee amendments. Recognize Senator Stuthman. Senator Stuthman waives. Senator Stuthman, are you back on now? You're recognized.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: I will call the question.

SENATOR ENGEL: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? That's really not necessary, Senator Stuthman. There were no lights on. So we'll just...okay. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I don't think there's been any debate on the committee amendment, has there?

SENATOR ENGEL: There were no lights on at the time, Senator Chambers. There are now, though. The Chair rules Stuthman debate...for the...the request out of order. So debate will continue. Senator Stuthman, you are recognized. Senator Thompson. Senator Thompson, you are recognized.

SENATOR THOMPSON: I was just a little distracted. I got an e-mail that says, you're an idiot. (Laughter) So, you know, those kind of always get my attention. So you out in television land, I'll read the rest of it later. (Laugh) Mr. President, members of the body, I stand again in concern over the amendment and the bill. I believe that we have to consider the importance of what we do in sending a vote to the people. This shouldn't be a polling place for us to read the meters on every issue. The only reason we're doing it this way is because there's no way that we're going to put any more money than the \$500,000 that we just put back in the budget, which may or may not survive the whole budget process, because we don't want to spend General Fund money, and because we don't want...we don't have the courage to bring it up as a General Fund expenditure. Quite frankly, because it won't pass. So because there are some people who have significant interest in this particular