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FLOOR DEBATE

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continually ratchets up. I really think in my own situation, I have looked at my tax statement, my taxes for my local school district went up 30 percent on my tax bill this past year. I know my valuation didn't go up 30 percent. It may have gone up 10 percent, but I think valuations are going to continue to increase because of the land sales. Land is valued on their sales. This year they've gone up 10 percent again, as I just had read in the paper, so there's going to be another valuation change of all of the real property in the communities. One other thing that I have a real concern with, and I have served on another board that had a large budget at one time, it really concerns me that we continually...all we really look at is forecast, forecast, forecasting budget, forecasting. You know, is it going to come? Are the dollars going to be there to service the projects that we have enacted? I would almost like to challenge the Appropriations Committee or the Revenue Committee, whichever it may be, as to there's got to be a simpler method to do our budgeting process. We spend many, many days, you know, trying to figure out. You know, we listen to the Forecasting Board. They're projecting this, they're projecting this. They just threw another dart at the wall. It hit a certain figure. Let's use that. Didn't work out. Continually we have to backtrack all the time. I, realistically, think there's got to be a better method that we can figure a more consistent supply of money working off of prior year's revenue or something, but I really think that there needs to be some consideration other than continually going on forecasts. As a farmer myself, if I...if the weather forecast was for a lot of moisture in the summertime and warm weather, I wouldn't double the population on my corn, plant, you know, 35,000 compared to 25,000 plants. And if it wouldn't come out, it would be a dry year, I'd have a total disaster. We don't do that because, you know, there's always forecasts but how much faith can you put in a forecast? So how much time have I got left?

SENATOR CUDABACK: You have about two minutes.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Two minutes. I'll give the balance of my time to Senator Chambers.