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SENATOR KRUSE: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and colleagues. I stand to support the Wehrbein amendment basically because I live in the real world. To assume that we will come to the beginning of the next biennium without some kind of a problem if we don't start dealing with it is a little bit out of touch. I strongly oppose property taxes. I really appreciate Senator Beutler's sheet that's put out. I've studied that, too, and have been dismayed that we're basically treading water on that. And I'm committed to making the changes that are necessary in the future that will change that. I would hope that if we take the \$1.10 that that would motivate us to deal with the income tax or one of these other options. Senator Brashear has offered an option, sales tax, but some way or other to get off of that. I do have a better way than removing...than going to the \$1.10. Just remove the cap altogether. I know you'll be crowding around me afterwards wanting to do that, (laugh) but I will submit to you, and I haven't found anybody to disagree with this, that if we were to remove the cap altogether and just trust the locals to do their job and give them a free hand to do the job, it would reduce taxes in most of our districts. They are levying the cap simply because it's there. We need to get rid of it. Not waiting for the rush of people to want to do that, I again affirm that the Appropriations Committee is ready in January to take the \$1.10 off if we have come to that place. I think it's unfair to startle people by going at it and then let them be surprised. I do prefer the income tax option and will make this comment that this is not hitting high-income people. There's that kind of reference, well, we're going to go after them. Remember, the '97 rollback of tax was meant to favor middle-income so the major rollback was on middle-income people. And when we replace it, the major hit will be on middle-income people, not on the high-income people. And then I also hear on the floor that regarding the levy, the present levy, that any district can override--not true. We are ducking our responsibility. We're not accepting the buck stops here when we act like every district can override. We have a freeholder provision in our law that blocks several districts from changing. If they pass an override, that gives permission for people in a small district to leave that district. It is not an option for them to do it. Again, I trust local boards to do a responsible job. I hope that we will believe in that and that