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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: But for me, it's...it is a change and this bill was presented to us as a collection of the law into one section as a cleanup and we didn't fully discuss this part of the law and taking this out as part of the major thrust of this bill. It is a major part of Senator Baker's bill. And as I see Senator Baker's bill, it is a dual purpose. It comes in with funding for the EPIC Fund and then it removes this section of law that may be in conflict, as you say. But it is in law and it was discussed under LB 536, when we put the bill in place, that that was our fallback if we...to keep pressure on us as a Legislature to come up with funding for the EPIC Fund. And if we didn't, then we'd do this onerous thing of raising gas taxes and putting it in that. I don't want to do that per se for the whole fund, but I also think it's a pressure on us to get the fund fixed. I would think that Baker's bill is the appropriate place to do that work when you're putting a funding mechanism in to replace that. I know that there are conflicting statutes. Revenue Department has said that they will not use this section because of the other opposing section.

SPEAKER BROMM: Did you just say then that you were going to withdraw it and refile it on Select?

SENATOR CONNEALY: No, I have not. (Laugh)

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SPEAKER BROMM: I was trying to understand whether you said that. I would suggest that that would be a better choice or a better course of action because I think this is somewhat significant. I think the bill came out of committee proposing to repeal the statute, to clarify the law. And until we know what we do with LB 1065, I would hate to see us make that decision after having the amendment filed today and a short amount of debate on this floor. So, to me, I can't support the amendment. I would suggest, Senator Connealy, that he might think again about considering refiling it on Select. Thank you.