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that, we wanted to be assured there. There is a good return on investment. And I think one small solution is to do better jobs of auditing. I think there is an expanding underground economy in the state for many reasons probably, but only if...there's always going to be a temptation to get by if you know you're not going to get audited. So we feel money...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...is well-spent in the Department of Revenue.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein and Senator Redfield. Senator Cunningham, followed by Senator Smith and others.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. I'd like to start by saying that I, too, do appreciate the work of the Appropriations Committee and the time they spend. I know they spend a lot more time in committee work than the rest of us. But I would also, at the same time, tell you that it's very frustrating on our part if...being as we don't have the opportunity to be there. And I will tell you that I did try to get on the Appropriations Committee last year and there wasn't a space for me. Because it's very, very frustrating if you get to the point you don't want to raise taxes but you haven't had the opportunity to sit through and hear all of the testimony from the different agencies, and so it gets to be very difficult. And so I do appreciate Senator Redfield bringing this amendment today and I did sign on as a cosponsor of the amendment. I think Senator Redfield did a very, very good job of explaining what the economy is like in parts of Nebraska. It is not very good. People have been screaming about tax increases--don't raise our taxes. Now that the last two years we have raised sales and income taxes, and I will tell you that last year I voted to raise sales and income taxes, I voted to override the Governor, and it was a very, very difficult thing for me to do, but we cannot continue to do that. You know, the thing that scares me is next year. You know, we've talked about at the end of next year we're going to be \$159 million short. But then if you look at the two out years after that, we have revenue