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FLOOR DEBATE

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body. As I listened to the debate, I have a lot of concerns with the problem with our funding of the low-level waste judgment that we have might have. And I think we need to really discuss that. But as I look at this means of addressing the problem, I see so many problems with it that I cannot support it. I would be more inclined to support a half-cent sales tax increase for one year, because I think it's on a broader base. One thing I think, how would you ever determine who the low-income people are? And I know there are many...and I guess I'm thinking maybe in agriculture. There are a lot of times meters that are on a partnership with a landlord and a tenant. How do you determine who is low-income and who is not on a partnership meter? Again, it...I was just thinking of, an average household would maybe pay 5 percent. If you pay a 5 percent surcharge, in the neighborhood of maybe \$30, \$40, or something like that. But when you get into livestock facilities and irrigation, the average farm, I think, would pay around \$2,500, somewhere in there. I just figured up what it would probably cost me. And I think Senator Beutler already addressed the burden that property tax has on our ag land. And here's another area where just the structure of the business in agriculture and livestock production is that for one operator with maybe income the same as what a nonfarmer, a worker would do, or any other job, you have to have so much capital, so much machinery, so much land, that everything is taxed with that. So you get a percentage of the income. And I think Senator Brashear passed out a flyer a couple years ago where the average property tax on a farmer was 30 percent of the net income. If we ended up with 30 percent of the net income of a residential owner, you can imagine what kind of an outcry we'd hear. And it seems like this is just pretty hard to come up with something that's really based on a broad base that's fair to everybody. I think it would be in contradiction of our efforts to get economic development, because many times the largest consumers of electricity are somebody that brings in industry. I'm thinking of even the ethanol plants use a lot of electricity. And many times when electricity is so much a big percentage of your operation costs, then it brings the percentage of your income into the surcharge much higher than it is for just an average homeowner. I just don't know how...who would determine who is going to be a low-income individual. Would you have to