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FLOOR DEBATE

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unwarranted...unwarrantedly negative. That one might be too low. That torpedo might miss us. But I acknowledge it looks like the waste dump torpedo is on track to hit us. And instead of waiting around for the explosion to happen, sure, it makes sense to act in advance and try to control the fiscal damage as much as we can before the actual explosion happens. The difficulty for me is, though, I'm not necessarily willing to do it. I don't think I would have voted for the surcharge and surtax on the electric bill. I'm not excited about the income tax and sales tax, any of the other traditional taxes. It's not that I'm automatically against any tax any time. This proposal, if I understand it, might involve a hike in the gas tax. The difficulty for me is I don't want to vote for any of the traditional tax hikes until we've made a good faith effort at fundamental fiscal reform first, especially in school finance. And if that means the alternative is a special session, then I'm prepared for that and I don't say that lightly. I doubt there is anybody in here for whom a special session is more painful than it is for me. If I don't work my other job, I don't get paid. But I've reached the point where I'm ready to do that. See, we made some big promises in here last year. We said, ah, those temporary sales and income taxes, we need to make them permanent. Oh, by the way, we've got to temporarily raise that property tax lid by a nickel. But no more business as usual. We're going to review everything. We're going to overhaul everything. We're going to come in next year, no more business as usual. My perception is it is business as usual in here again this year, and I'm not willing to do business as usual, as I say, until we've at least made a good faith effort at some of these other fundamental problems that confront us. I concede that problems are surfacing in the debate; \$111 million is a big number. There is the issue that's been raised about constitutionality; can we actually do this in the way that Senator Brashear proposes? I don't know the answers to those. I'm going to keep listening. I hope that we can find a way to at least have this be a plausible alternative because to me, as I say, it's the least toxic of the various poisons presented to us. Senator Brashear, do you want any more time?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Brashear, about one, forty-five.