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LB 1090

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brashear. You've heard the opening on AM3477 to LB 1090. Open for discussion on that motion. Senator Raikes, followed by Senator Landis and others.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I'd yield my time to Senator Landis.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Thank you, Senator Raikes. I'm the next speaker. I'll yield whatever time I have remaining back to you. There are four ideas out there that we're looking for revenue. One is the bonds, one is the electric surcharge, one is the sales tax, and one is the income tax. They all have different virtues and vices, and it's a mixed bag. But around the whole question, I think, is public support for doing something. And I think Senator Erdman raised a fair point. We...if we act this session, I think we will be ahead of where the public is on this idea. It's our job to be ahead. It's our job to be prescient. That's fair game. I mean, I think that's up to us to do that. But I do confess, I think that we're ahead of the public. I think the public does not believe that we are now under the gun to pay this. The bill has not been given to us, and therefore we don't have to pay it at the moment. I think they will pay it when the time comes. And secondly, I think they would scratch their head and say, why isn't anybody examining the possibility of siting a nuclear waste dump in Nebraska as an alternative to 150 million bucks? Why is there no discussion on the floor of the Legislature? And why isn't somebody in the Governor's Office talking settlement, so that we could pursue that option without having to pay the money? And we don't have a good answer for that question, which means, I think we're ahead of the curve on where the public is. Doesn't mean we shouldn't be having this conversation. If we do want to, because we're better planners than what the public would have us do, and we do want to put money ahead, I want to make some comments about each of the four ideas that are here. I originally opposed the Brashear idea because it raised too much money, and a good portion of that money went to solving the problem of the \$1.10, \$1.05 school money. It was short-term