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interest rate, I really appreciate those comments. So with that, that is my comment and I'll return the balance of my time to the Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Dwite Pedersen, on FA1649.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I have not spoke on this and I've been questioned by a couple of you colleagues about, you know, where I'm at with it, and I think it's time that I get up and at least tell you how I feel. We are talking about raising taxes, the same thing we did about a year ago at this time. It was a little later in the year because it was a longer session. And I voted for the raise in taxes last year, but I voted for that raise in taxes because, basically, because I was able to get something taken out of the spending and that was when we closed the Lincoln Correctional Center. The Lincoln Correctional Center has been put back on line this year because the Department of Corrections said they needed it, not much more than that. They said they needed it and we put it back in there. And this isn't sour grapes with me. This is where I live. This is where I study. This is something I believe passionately, that we could have done a lot more in the area of cutting, especially in the area of corrections. And those of you who have studied what other...whatever other bureaucracy you wanted to do, I'm sure there's things that we could have done there, too. So if you believe that there's something that can be cut, how can you honestly be true to yourself and true to your constituents and say, well, couldn't cut it, so I'll go ahead and raise taxes? I can't do that. I'm not going to vote for any tax of any kind. And waiting for next year to see if things are going to change, we've got some programs that are out there, some interim studies. We've got some committees and councils that are working that are going to bring back some more, hopefully, efficient and better government for us that's going to save some money. But in the meantime, we went through that same scenario last year and the year before that and the year before that. In the 12 years I've been here, I've never seen us so split at this end of the...this stage of the session. Department of Corrections is something I watch because I have some interest in