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position to support the thorough education of children coming into higher education before they get there, we're going to do ourselves great damage. And by not taking positive steps now, you're putting all of that at risk, and you're putting property taxes at risk. And I'm just disappointed that we are not taking a positive step at this time to be sure that we don't go in either of those directions. Because either of those directions is not in the long-term best interest of this state, in my opinion. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. On with discussion. Senator Schimek. She waives the opportunity to speak. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm a bit concerned about what Senator Beutler has had to say. I have had the privilege this year of working extensively with several members of our committee and other members of leadership in the Legislature, with our Governor. And I would have to say that this year he has tried very hard to try to work with us and to try to find an answer to our common problem. I think it's not appropriate for us to say that our problems right now lack leadership from the Governor's Office. I don't believe that's the issue at all. And I think that the concern that many of us have concerning the suggestions of how to raise additional funds relate not to the fact that we don't need the money, but it relates to the fact that the proposals that we have had would inadequately treat the problem. And I think the worst thing that you can do with extensive bleeding is put a Band-Aid on it. And I'm afraid that that's what the efforts have been in this regard. I think we will have to wait until next year to determine the extent of the problem, and then jointly work together to try and find a solution. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Schimek.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I can understand Senator Beutler's frustration. But I've been getting more and more adherents to the "do-nothing" party. The other day, yesterday, I had said,