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SENATOR CUDABACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Foley. On with discussion. Senator Landis, followed by Senators Beutler and Smith. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Members of the Legislature, this idea came up a year ago or so. It came up in the context of a bill that was an update of LB 775, and we had some disclosure terms in that bill that got into trouble on the floor. Senator Beutler offered this idea, I think, at that time, or a variation of this idea at that time. It was defeated at that time, and it's back now with, I think, the further consideration of the work of the committee. I must say I opposed it at that time so it shouldn't come as a surprise to Senator Beutler. This is a close call. As a matter of policy, I don't think it's a big question one way or the other, although I come to a different conclusion than Senator Beutler and I'm going to vote against the bill. If I understand correctly, I listened carefully to the opening, I think the essential argument was this is a parallel authority to that which exists in the Revenue Department and within the Public Auditor's, essentially. The tax confidential records are available to the executive branch in those ways, and our own Performance Evaluation Committee ought to have the same kind of leeway, and that there are a number of protections. I would grant all of that argument. I think that argument is sound and fairly made. Here's my problem. I don't think that we want to expand the number of tax records, people who are accessible to tax records, without a clear showing of need. That I don't think has been happened so far. I heard an example that was a question that was about Medicaid records, but that has not been persuasive to me. In other words, I think we ought to have a pretty clear agenda ahead of ourselves if we're going to give ourselves this authority. Secondly, I think if you ask the public if they saw any difference between the Public Auditor and their state senators looking at their tax records, I think the public would see a distinction there. Even though we're equal branches of government and there is a similarity, I've got to say we mix, in the legislative arena, public policymaking with this oversight of government function. In the Auditor's account, there is not a public policy function, there is a ministerial function of