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treated fairly and compensated fairly. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Cunningham, on the Chambers amendment to the first part of divided committee amendments.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. I just stand to speak to address a few issues that Senator Chambers and Senator Beutler have brought up. And, Senator Chambers, one thing I would say, you know, we are doing this bill for working people. I know you disagree with that. I know you totally disagree with me philosophically, but the idea here is to protect that fund, but at the same time we need to protect it, but we need to do it in a responsible way. And that's what I'm trying to do. I've tried very hard to get together with all sides. I know you disagree totally, but we're never going to get past that. Senator Beutler, you mentioned this morning about average benefits. We're down, you know, in the area of 43rd, or whatever it was, in the nation. But you also have to realize that's where our average wages are in the nation also. We can't have wages at one level and have benefits at a much higher level. You also asked, and I said I would find out, if other states are doing the array system like we're proposing, and the answer was, Utah, Maine, and some type of a system in Iowa, but none of them use the .85 figure, that type of a figure They come about it in different ways and do like we do. different things. So this is kind of a unique new system. would tell you that the Department of Labor has worked very, very hard helping me. Whenever I would have questions, they would come up with the answers. They would work. They would run numbers, numbers, numbers, and numbers. Those numbers have been ran by all the different sides. Everybody has had a chance to look at it, and this is what we've come up with. I did tell you earlier that on page 26, subsection (3), I believe it was on line 26, that was, you know, we want to change that on Select Also, the area that Senator Chambers had, the "including File. but not limited to" that was in the laundry list, Senator Chambers, very willing to put that in there. So, with that, I think I've addressed the questions that I've heard. I'm not saying much. If anybody has any questions, I'll try to answer