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SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: You may file this away under "carking voice in the wilderness." For us to predict what the public will do and pass an amendment--not just put it on the ballot, but pass an amendment--we have to guess what the public will vote for. And we've overstretched the mark in LR 12CA. The public will not vote for \$12,000. It won't vote for it, because essentially, that's the average state wage. That's what the average worker in this state makes for a year's work. And when they sit in that voting booth, they're going to say to themselves, \$24,000 is an average wage for a year's work, and that's half a year's work, and it's too much. And my prediction is it will be voted down. Now, we jumped from \$4,800 to \$12,000. But when we did that...and though the numerics of that was, I mean, it was like a 250 percent increase, but we were still well below what the average person in the state received; \$24,000 will not be that same kind of a number. So when we have a 100 percent increase--because that's how it's going to get played on talk radio, a 100 percent increase--we'll also begin to approach the amount of money that many, many people in this state make for a year's labor. And that will be disqualifying. I wish it was more. But this is a futile exercise if it's not something that the public can be educated into supporting. You can move people by education. I don't think you can support...I don't think you--this is my prediction--I don't think you can get them to do a 100 percent increase that replicates an average full-time year-round job in this state, which is about a \$24,000 a year job. Why can't we get a commission, which is, I think, entirely rational? Two reasons. Number one: the federal government has a commission, and it allows--and the public has seen this--for House of Representatives members to vote against an increase given to them by the commission, which they then get to vote against, but, because there isn't enough of them voting against the commission, they get the increase. They see games played with the commission. And Senator Beutler's theory on the commission is that the public wouldn't work for somebody who treated them that way. That's true. They wouldn't. But the public isn't the worker, under the commission form; the public is giving up their position as making the decision, or being the CEO. And by giving it to the commissioner, they lose the power