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FLOOR DEBATE

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remove trees. It is the city's obligation altogether with respect to those trees. I don't know how it is in the city of Columbus, because I'm not familiar with the laws that apply to cities of the first class and in that regard.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Senator Beutler. What I'm trying to really deal with here is, you know, what are we trying to accomplish with this? Are we realistically trying to get a method of trying to have additional taxation to certain areas? I understand, I've been kind of listening, that it's the group in the area that wants to do it and wants to be taxed more for that, and then again I'm kind of thinking it's, you know, the city that wants to develop these districts. Now, I would also like to ask Senator Price a question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Price, are you available?

SENATOR PRICE: Yes, sir.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Senator Price, give me the basics of how this really starts. Does it come from a petition drive of a community that wants to be involved in the improvement and betterment of that? Or does it come from the top down from the city, from the local city administrator or city council? Where does the grass roots start from?

SENATOR PRICE: Either/or. If I live in my neighborhood and I see a need for trees, I can build a group of people out there and we can all get together and we can petition the city. And then with the petition then we can get on the list of the master plan for the city. And I don't know how their priority status is, if a petition moves ahead of their regular planting. So it could be done by a desire of the people. The other choice, and I don't know which one has priority, is where the city, with the passage of this legislation then, would establish tree districts, assessment districts for trees, and then the city council, with the approval of the city council and the input of the people, you know, for or against, if it's below 50 percent of the people that do not file a protest then these will be established. So it's either/or.