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to have the fortune of being here in the body when Senator Warner was here, understood his position, but to take doc. stamps, which really come from housing transfers--yes, some are commercial transfers and other transfers--and put those into affordable housing is, to me, a somewhat painless way of helping our citizens who cannot afford decent housing. So...and I appreciate Senator Beutler's point here, but at this point in time I will not be voting for the amendment and would like us to carry on with the direction that Senator Redfield has laid out before us. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Further discussion on the Beutler amendment? Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: How soon we forget the fiscal crisis, how soon, and all of a sudden the individual programs out there take on these enhanced proportions. Senator Jensen, I would submit to you it is usually always the poor, in one form or another, who take the brunt of a cutback in a state budget, in part because decreased revenues, which is what business tax incentives are for our state budget, are really impossible to decrease in a short period of time and, therefore, are not effective tools in a time of fiscal crisis. So I know my problem here. My problem is to tell all of you that, notwithstanding the fact you love the Affordable Housing Fund and you love the Homeless Fund and you love all these funds, that the greater and better policy is to treat all of these funds equally under your annual appropriations process and distinguish them on the basis of annual needs, not in accordance with the amount that may haphazardly come in from a particular revenue source. But let me begin the second part of the conversation because it has to do with the fact that this tax is a sales tax. Compared to all other sales taxes, it's being levied at .25 of 1 percent, as opposed to 5 or 7 percent. You may not want to start thinking about it yet because it's still a week off and the Revenue Committee hasn't come forward with its package of business incentives yet. But let me assure you a crisis is in the offing. The Appropriations Committee has done what, of necessity, it must do in the absence of any identifiable business incentive package and it's identified the needs, the current ongoing needs of the state, and it has set