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LB 38

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. And I'll be voting no on this as well. I was...I can't resist the temptation to needle Senator Landis a little bit. He had a favorite saying in the Revenue Committee: Must be present to win, (Laughter) is what he would (laugh)...listen, I've opposed the bill from the beginning, although I appreciate what those folks from that area are trying to do. I haven't spoken a lot on the bill. I think you'll notice that. Here's my struggle. I voted for the tax increase a couple years ago, because I felt we didn't have a choice. And I don't feel the same thing today. We have cut the community colleges, but we also have, a time or two, given them additional levy authority to respond to those budget cuts. I have a philosophical position, and I am struggling as to why we're allowing a community college to develop a new campus when we can't afford to pay for the ones we have. I appreciate what Senator Landis is saying as it regards to process, that people need input. That's somewhat compelling to me. But there's nothing in the bill that requires there to be, as I read it, a process by which people get to speak and object to this increase. As I read it, it just says that the community colleges can raise this levy. And I just...again, I'm going to be voting no. I'll continue to vote no. As I understand it, Senator Landis needs 33 votes to even reconsider the motion, as I read the rules. But I'm not going to support a tax increase that's not necessary. And again, I've showed my colors in the past, that I have voted for tax increases when I felt we absolutely did not have a choice. But I don't feel that that's the case today. So I'll continue to vote no on this, as well. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Bourne is tastefully attired this morning. As I told Senator Erdman when he came here all coordinated one day, that I'm sure his wife dressed him. I don't know where Senator Bourne got the assistance, but he has on his diplomatic attire. And his presentation was very diplomatic, right to the point.