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let's be clear about what is a deal and what is not a deal, and let's be clear about what we're going to allow to happen in this body and what we're not. In fact, I'm not so sure, and I might just be letting you know where I'm at, I'm not so sure I'm comfortable supporting the budget. Is it because I think the Appropriations Committee did a bad process? Absolutely not. You want to talk about a committee that does their work? You bet, absolutely, they do their work. But am I comfortable seeing the growths that are in the budget? No. And why am I not comfortable? Is it because we shouldn't fund higher education? We should do it. We should absolutely make it a priority of this Legislature and this state to fund those programs. We should make state aid and we should make special ed a priority. And we should look at Medicaid and we should do it, not only within context of LB 709 going forward, but within today. And we should look at those programs and we should decide as a body what is important. And then we should look at those people we're asking to pay the bill, and we should say, is this fair to you? And I'm not convinced that when you look long-term what we're doing today that builds the base for future Legislatures, including you new members that got here, it's fair to you. So I'm going to rise in opposition...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR ERDMAN: ...to Senator Mines' amendment, and I may be opposed to any other amendments until we see some discussion about why it is that we're deviating, why the policy is there and why within this idea of a deal is a deal that we're not also talking about the fact that we could have had the opportunity to address the actual tax climate in the state and not just give out money to certain individuals and certain entities that are eligible. That's a deal, and that was a deal that was made with the public, and I guarantee they're not forgetting that deal that was made. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. On with discussion of AM1438, Senator Friend, followed by Senator Bourne.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the