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FLOOR DEBATE

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can't afford to pay the additional tax on the labor to have the furnace put in. I stand with Senator Landis on this issue. In 2003, when times were tough and the Legislature looked around for sources of revenue, who did they go to? They went to the homeowner. They said, we're going to put it on you. No date for taking it off; we're just going to put it on you, because obviously, if you can own a home, you can pay more taxes. I disagree with that. This legislation is to give back from the people that we took from--I should say the people that you took from; I wasn't here--in 2003, give people the opportunity to keep up their property. And I'm not talking about people living in real expensive homes. I'm talking about the average person in a modest home, raising their family, hoping that nothing goes wrong. I'm not sold that by giving a big deduction to the housing authority that poor people are going to benefit. If you'd ask the average person living in the housing authority what percentage of tax is charged to install, say, plumbing in their unit, they wouldn't have a clue. They don't pay that charge. You ask the person who has their house, who has to replace wiring because it's unsafe, they know what it's going to cost. They know what the additional fee is. They know that the Legislature in 2003 put that tax on them as homeowners so that when they have work done they have to pay extra. That's how they see it. It's not a tax...this is not a tax break to benefit construction. Construction has its own issues with the confusion of this tax. Again, I stand with Senator Landis. We should give this revenue back to the people that took on the burden in 2003, encourage home ownership, encourage property upkeep. Do the right thing with this. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Howard. Further discussion. Senator Brown. Senator Brown, did you wish to...?

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, I would yield my time to Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Brown. I spoke earlier today on this portion of it, of the housing authority. I will apologize for being a little late