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SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Erdman, followed by Senators Louden, Fischer, Thompson, McDonald, Smith, and Hudkins. Senator Erdman, on the Raikes amendment, AM2721, to LB 1208.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I was wondering if Senator Raikes would yield.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, would you yield to a question from Senator Erdman?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Senator Raikes, I was visiting with Senator Thompson about the implication or the practicality of this process. Is it your understanding that, even under AM2721, that the money necessary to implement LB 1208 will still be there, and that there will be the money still available to do what Senator Thompson is asking for, as far as beginning to reimplement the funding that was stopped for the program that she's interested in?

SENATOR RAIKES: That's right. That is my view.

SENATOR ERDMAN: And so as we go forward here, the reason the amendment is as it is, is to make sure that there is enough funding in the program under the Innovation Fund to fund the distance education upgrades and those types of things that will be needed under LB 1208, and then as we move into this process and the upgrades happen, the funding will be sufficient to meet those that their contracts come in at different times? So as they come in,...

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes.

SENATOR ERDMAN: ...some contracts are up in '06, some are in '07, some are as far as '09, there's still money in the