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FLOOR DEBATE

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Senator Beutler's amendment here. I think it's a good idea to have an income tax credit for permanent retirement or easements on land, and Senator Beutler, I applaud you for bringing this amendment to us.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Schrock. There are no further lights. I'm sorry. Senator Flood, you're recognized to speak.

SENATOR FLOOD: Thank you, Mr. President and members. This amendment by Senator Beutler is interesting to me, because it talks about using tax incentives, essentially, or tax breaks to get people to put land in conservation easements. I was wondering if Senator Beutler would have the opportunity to answer some questions for me.

SENATOR BAKER: Senator Beutler, would you respond, please?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes.

SENATOR FLOOD: Senator, with regard to your amendment, AM2683, when you propose a tax incentive, essentially for perpetual easements, there have been some in this body that want to know what you mean by perpetual. Is this the type of easement that can never expire, or would you describe that for me?

SENATOR BEUTLER: In duration, the easement is perpetual; that is, it never expires. However, with respect to the use of water, you can provide within the easement, for example, ...there are different ways of doing this. But for example, you could provide that the easement holder, in times where there's plenty of water, could allow under the easement for short-term usage of water, notwithstanding the normal terms that would apply on the easement. Did that clarify?

SENATOR FLOOD: I think I understand where you're going. Do you know what the fiscal impact of this would be, what the bill would be in lost revenue from the amendment, as proposed?

SENATOR BEUTLER: I don't. I don't think I have one. Let me look and see, but I don't think I have an estimate, because I