

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

April 3, 2006

LR 259

is. And if I have missed that opportunity, I would look forward to visiting with individuals about why that is being treated differently. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Raikes, followed by Senator Schrock.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I, too, oppose this amendment. I liked the constitution better before the State Fair amendment. I didn't support that one, and so I certainly wouldn't support this one. I very much oppose putting constitutional language that takes the authority away from the Legislature. I think that authority is appropriately granted with the Legislature. It's desperately needed at times to deal with difficult financial situations. We've done that in the case of education at times. Some people may be critical of that, and that's certainly in bounds. But still, it remains the case that the Legislature needs and should have the authority to regulate the use of this money, so I oppose this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Schrock, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, woe is me for the educational people; they only get half of our budget. And you know, when you take it away from the Environmental Trust, there's nothing to replace it with. It's gone. It's gone for something else. I wish my committee got 10 percent of the money that Senator Raikes got for educational issues. We don't...it doesn't happen, folks. And when you raid the trust, that money is not going to be there for those issues that I think the people voted on. I would also remind you that we have the Educational Lands and Funds, \$300 million set aside, plus all the land. And who knows? I mean, the income all goes for school. And I'm as pro-education as anybody in here, but you take it away from the Environmental Trust Board and their grant provisions, and it's just easy to raid. And we've done it in good times; we've done it in bad times. And it would be nice to have a little protection for these issues. Now, if this fails, it fails. But I'll guarantee you, when the budget time