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LB 1226

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I think it's about time we're real about how the budget works. If you pass an amendment like this, what you're saying is, you're taking it out of the base, and there would be no appropriation considered in the future. We've got water, we've got problems, we're under a mandate for the cities on their storm water and things of that nature. We're not going to avoid this by passing an amendment like this. What we would do is say that we would have to undo what you're doing here. We would have to say, yes, we will make appropriations when it's taken up. We have a biennial budget that we will be meeting next year. Many of us won't be here. But I think...I want you to understand that you should not tie the hands of the Appropriations Committee for the future years. You're saying we're not going to put any more money into this program, and that...you just can't do that. I think it's avoiding our responsibilities. I think it's tying the hands of the future legislators. And I think that it's just not the way that we're going to operate effectively as a state. When a bill comes before us, or a proposal--and this one would come before the Appropriations Committee next year--we would view it as to whether or not funds should be put into this program. That's the determination to be made. But you can't have something that says no General Funds will be put into this program. I think that...it sounds good, it sounds like maybe we're going to take care of it some other way, but I think that's not the reality of the situation. I would strongly urge you not to pass this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Kopplin, your light is on next.

SENATOR KOPPLIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I simply stand to express my opposition to this amendment, simply because I don't see the use of it or the need of it right now. Future senators, the future Legislature can make these decisions as they go, and that's where the decisions ought to be made. So I'm really not understanding the need for this at this time, and am in opposition to it. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING