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FLOOR DEBATE

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for constructive ideas on how to put this to rest or put it perhaps into another stage of debate. And without going through how OPS has been disingenuous and how the suburban districts have been stonewalling and how all this happens, I understand we live in a political process, that this is what we do. And I understand that sometimes decisions are made based on politics. However, this amendment I don't believe is constructive to LB 1024. I don't understand how another \$2 million for whatever reason it might be and I'm not suggesting that it's not warranted and it's appropriate. I'm suggesting that this is probably not the correct time to do this. I wonder why this wasn't suggested during the debate when we did the Education priority bills. Why now? I don't know. And I'm sure that the \$2 million is very well, is needed. I can't support it. I'm sorry. I also can't support LB 1024. LB 1024 was, from my perspective, I gave...I voted green on General File to get us to this stage of debate because this is about the debate. However--and I intend to pay close attention--I haven't heard anything yet that's constructive to solving LB 1024 including this amendment. And I will vote red on Select File unless during our debate, our political process, I hear other constructive ideas that have merit. One final note: LB 1024 costs an additional \$24 million. This amendment costs another \$2 million. If I heard Senator Beutler correctly earlier today, he waved the flag of warning. And that flag is in the out biennium; we are \$300 million short already. Now another \$2 million may not matter, another \$24 million may not matter. It matters to me, and it should matter to those of us coming back. So with that, Mr. President, I appreciate the time. I'll relinquish the rest of my time to Senator Chambers.

SENATOR BAKER:      Senator Chambers, you have 2 minutes, 10 seconds.

SENATOR CHAMBERS:    Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I had talked about process earlier. Senator Brashear has mentioned it here this evening. We are faced with a reality, the nature of which we all know. I think most people's mind has been made up in terms of what will be done on this bill. I don't know that there will be a special session. This bill ought to have enough votes to advance and it ought to