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

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pointed this out on natural gas, on other issues -- if we as body are not able to collectively decide what the policy should be, then what makes you think the people that follow us will? It is absolutely right. It is up to us to set this policy. The folks behind the glass are paid to be here. They have an opinion. And Senator Cornett is absolutely correct. We are here to represent the people that sent us. So what do we do? Do we pass the bill tonight, possibly do nothing on Thursday or advance it and then come back next year? Do we have a special Those options are all still before us. If we do something, people are going to be upset. If we do nothing, some people will claim victory. My frustration is this. I believe it would be beneficial--I don't believe it's necessary--I believe it would be beneficial for the Legislature to act, and act in a responsible way. I also believe that by not acting we allow those who have acted, in my opinion, irresponsibly at times, and this is not any one group, but we reward them for their actions. So that's the quandary that I'm in. I want to support something that has the boundaries being held harmless. It's similar to what Senator Raikes has outlined. It makes sense to me. But at the end of the day I look back and I think about what we did last session, and I would not wish that on my worst enemy. And that is the frustration that I have with where we are at today. There is no easy answer. Those issues have been addressed and they've been done, and if there's a school next year that gets sliced up, it won't be because of this bill. It will be because of bills prior. We've already gone down this path as Senator Flood has pointed out. That horse has left the barn, and we're going to be in this business for a long time to come. The question is, what is the right thing to do? And I'm absolutely interested in what the folks that are opposing LB 1024 would have us to do. Now I love a good special session like the rest of you, okay? But that is maybe not even as good of an idea as LB 1024. But I'm willing to listen.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR ERDMAN: I yield whatever time I have left to Senator Smith.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Smith.