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LB 1085

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Schimek, members of the Legislature. The amendment before us is going to be a hard choice. Each of...each of us have pet projects that we want to protect. I am sure the administration does too. We all have constituents that say, will you cut, cut here, cut this program, cut that program, but don't cut the one that is my pet. And that's awful easy to say but darn hard to do. We all have to make those tough choices. I'm sure you know and you understand that I've been an opponent of...of the cigarette tax increase for various reasons and I...and I...I think I've elaborated on those enough that...that you understand my position, but I'm willing to sit back and bear the pain and go along with it. And we're all going to have to do some pain bearing before this thing is over. If we don't do something like is before us now, how in the world am I going to go back and explain to my constituents and to my county board that we are ni...we're going to renege on the developmentally disabled programs that the counties have adopted with funding coming to them? We will all have those things come up in our districts. If I had my druthers, I'd make the revenue increases we're discussing permanent. But I'll go along with the one year because I'm sure we're going to have to come back and address it again the way the revenue situation, the way it looks, the last three months have been coming in. We can sit around here and play our fiddle and hope things magically turn around but, ladies and gentlemen, that is not going to happen. In my opinion, we have to act in the only way that we have available to us. Sure, there are other avenues we can look at, but the two main sources that we have to deal with are sales and income taxes. We have been given that authority to make the judgment call on where they are going to be. And I think the one year, in one year we can probably see where we're going to be, but I'll almost guarantee that we will be back in a year addressing the same situ...hopefully, I'm wrong. I hope things turn around. Maybe they will, but the way it looks right now, when you have three or four months that are going negatively every...every month, that looks doubtful as we go along our merry way trying to run the state government that our constituents, everyone of you have the same amount of constituents that I have or close to it, they elected us all to do what we thought was the right thing. You are not going to satisfy everyone but, by golly, that's what