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those businessmen who tell you, suckers and "suckeresses," you had better do this, and you do it. And you did it. Now here you come asking me to show consideration to rural people? Well, fortunately for you, I don't blame the rural people for the way their representatives conduct themselves. I should not punish the innocent because they were not wise enough to look into the future and see that they had sent people down here who would betray them and sell out their interests and tell the whole world by a vote that they ain't worth nothing. My job is to be the defender of the downtrodden, even, Senator Cunningham, when it comes to those people who want me out of this Legislature and voted overwhelmingly to amend the constitution to get me out of this Legislature, and they did that to silence the strongest voice they have on the floor of this Legislature. If I were small-minded and petty, I would conduct myself in a different way. But, despite how others on the floor conduct themselves and sell out their constituents, my job is still that of a state senator, and that means that I have to embrace all of the citizens of this state and do what I can to look out for their best interests. So I'm going to overlook the fact that my colleagues have a short attention span; that one day they say the rural community ain't worth nothing, and the next day they say the rural community is worth so much that they ought to be given some consideration. I think Senator Schrock's better angels are speaking to him today, and I hope there are others from the rural community whose better angels, if they have any, will also direct them to follow Senator Schrock's lead for the reason that he gave and vote in favor of his motion to bracket this bill. However, if they choose not to bracket it, I'm going to get on this bill and I shall ride 'em, cowboy. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Connealy, followed by Senator Stuthman, Baker, Raikes, and Beutler. Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I want to thank Senator Schrock for bringing this. This is not the time to raise the checkoff. The EPIC Fund will be funded. It's our intent when we passed LB 536, when we established this program, to do it. We do not need to step up at this point and