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FLOOR DEBATE

April 1, 2004 LB 1090, 1091, 1092

surcharge, which in a way is also somewhat messy, when we already have a mechanism in place for sales tax. But I want the public and all understand, and I hope the media picks up, this is not necessary to balance our budget in this next fiscal year. It is not necessary to balance our budget for this upcoming fiscal year starting July 1. This is an issue for me, and I hope all of you, that it's the low-level nuclear waste issue. And as I repeated yesterday morning the first thing, to me doing nothing is not an option. And as I've listened, some of you believe doing nothing is an option. But I think that it puts us on a real hole a year from now if we do not have some kind of money to spend here and as...to start facing our obligation. It certainly doesn't give us a strong position at the negotiating table if you have nothing to offer. So I hope you'll consider that today and I hope we can make some progress.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: LB 1090 and LB 1092, which are coming up, are needed for the budget itself this year, that's true. Those two bills are needed. And if we add...if we can't get consensus on what these revenue-raising issues are, then we'll have to jump through some hoops to get the equivalent of LB 1090 and LB 1091, it is actually, not LB 1092, passed. But I hope we can get some consensus to meet our responsibility of this low-level nuclear waste lawsuit of \$150 million. The \$122 million, by the way, doesn't cover it all, but we could, if time is moved along by next year, probably use Cash Reserve or perhaps even some additional money from General Fund if...or perhaps there's a way to settle that for something...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...less than \$150 million. So I hope you're thinking along that lines, that we're trying to find...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...some way we can find common ground. Thank you.