

PRESIDENT: Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I rise in opposition to the motion to override the Governor's veto of LB 539. I think it finally comes down to a point, and I guess it's just as fitting it would be the last day of the session that either you believe in having a tax increase or you don't believe in having a tax increase. It's been my philosophy that I wasn't going to vote for an increase in the sales or income tax this year and with that I tried to vote accordingly during the session. When the Governor brought back the line item vetoes of the budget I supported him down the line because I knew if we did not do this, we would have a tax increase or there would be a greater temptation to have a tax increase in the sales tax area. Now, I don't believe the people in this state want a sales tax increase and I don't feel that we're acting in the best interests of the people by voting for a sales tax increase and in this instance overriding the Governor. I think the Governor has made some very persuasive arguments against it. I think the second argument being that the additional revenue that will be raised in the future by this half cent sales tax, this half cent sales tax will not go away at the end of the year. It will not go away after the fiscal year coming up. It will stay with us and with it it will bring additional revenue and with the additional revenue will bring increased state spending. I don't think that's the climate of the people in this state. I think they have sent a message to the Congress that they are tired of increased spending by the government and I think they have sent a message to all of us senators here that they don't care for that either. Now, we're not the only state that has had these financial problems. There has been a number of Midwestern states that have gone through this agricultural crisis and they have weathered it. Iowa has gone through it, Kansas, we're all in the process of readjusting the amount of revenue that we raise with our needs for state spending. I don't think any Midwestern states have felt the trauma that some of these southern states that are, or states that are dependent on the severance tax, oil production, have had to go through. Texas, Oklahoma have all had to slash their states' budgets dramatically as a result in the reduction in revenue. Alaska has had tremendous reductions, Colorado, Louisiana, and they are facing much more difficult tasks than we're being asked to do today. Now, Senator Warner has explained how we can go about having a sales tax increase not go into effect and that is by reexamining LB 1251 line item vetoes that was given back to us by the Governor. I know those were tough vetoes to override.