

FLORIDA TAXATION AND BUDGET REFORM COMMISSION

IN RE: COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: NOVEMBER 30, 2007

TIME: COMMENCED AT 3:47 P.M.
CONCLUDED AT 4:34 P.M.

LOCATION: KNOTT BLDG., ROOM 412
TALLAHASSEE, FL

REPORTED BY: LISA D. FREEZE, RPR
NOTARY PUBLIC

2894 REMINGTON GREEN LANE
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32308 (850)878-2221

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

HOYT "BARNEY" BARNETT (BY PHONE)
MARTHA W. BARNETT
ALLAN BENSE
R. MARK BOSTICK (BY PHONE)
TALBOT "SANDY" D'ALEMBERTE
MIKE HARIDOPOLOS
MIKE HOGAN
JULIA JOHNSON
BRUCE KYLE
CARLOS LACASA
PATRICIA LEVESQUE
ALAN LEVINE
GWEN MARGOLIS
ROBERTO "BOBBY" MARTINEZ
JACINTHA MATHIS
JOHN M. MCKAY
ROBERT "BOB" MCKEE
LESLEY J. "LES" MILLER, JR.
RANDY MILLER
JADE THOMAS MOORE
FRANK PETERMAN
NANCY J. RILEY
DARRYL E. ROUSON
RAY SANSOM
JAMES "JIM" A. SCOTT
SUSAN STORY
WILLIAM GREGORY "GREG" TURBEVILLE
KENNETH "KEN" WILKINSON
BRIAN YABLONSKI

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN BENSE: CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER.

3 I THINK WE HAVE HOW MANY PEOPLE HERE, TEN, 11?

4 WHO'S ON THE PHONE?

5 MR. BARNETT: BARNEY BARNETT.

6 MR. BOSTICK: MARK BOSTICK.

7 CHAIRMAN BENSE: OH, GOOD. SO THAT GIVES US

8 TWO ON THE PHONE. THAT'S 13. SO THAT'S A

9 MAJORITY. OKAY.

10 CHANDRA, IF YOU'LL CALL THE ROLL, PLEASE.

11 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER BARNEY BARNETT.

12 MR. BARNETT: HERE.

13 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER MARTHA BARNETT.

14 (NO RESPONSE.)

15 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER BOSTICK.

16 MR. BOSTICK: HERE.

17 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER D'ALEMBERTE.

18 MR. D'ALEMBERTE: HERE.

19 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER HARIDOPOLOS.

20 (NO RESPONSE.)

21 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER HOGAN.

22 (NO RESPONSE.)

23 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER JOHNSON.

24 (NO RESPONSE.)

25 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER KYLE.

1 (NO RESPONSE.)

2 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER LACASA.

3 MR. LACASA: HERE.

4 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER LEVESQUE.

5 (NO RESPONSE.)

6 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER LEVINE.

7 (NO RESPONSE AT TIME OF ROLL CALL.)

8 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER MARGOLIS.

9 (NO RESPONSE.)

10 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ.

11 (NO RESPONSE.)

12 CHANDRA: COMMISSIONER MATHIS.

13 MS. MATHIS: HERE.

14 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER MCKAY.

15 (NO RESPONSE.)

16 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER MCKEE.

17 MR. MCKEE: HERE.

18 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER LES MILLER.

19 MR. LES MILLER: HERE.

20 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER RANDY MILLER.

21 MR. RANDY MILLER: HERE.

22 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER MOORE.

23 (NO RESPONSE.)

24 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER PETERMAN.

25 (NO RESPONSE.)

1 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER RILEY.

2 (NO RESPONSE.)

3 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER ROUSON.

4 (NO RESPONSE.)

5 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER SANSOM.

6 (NO RESPONSE.)

7 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER STORY.

8 MS. STORY: HERE.

9 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER TURBEVILLE.

10 MR. TURBEVILLE: HERE.

11 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER WILKINSON.

12 MR. WILKINSON: HERE.

13 MS. GODWIN: COMMISSIONER YABLONSKI.

14 (NO RESPONSE.)

15 MS. GODWIN: VICE CHAIR SCOTT.

16 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: HERE.

17 MS. GODWIN: CHAIR BENSE.

18 CHAIRMAN BENSE: HERE.

19 MS. GODWIN: WE HAVE A QUORUM.

20 CHAIRMAN BENSE: OKAY. JUST A FEW REMARKS

21 HERE. I'VE BEEN CHALLENGED TO GET US OUT BY FOUR

22 BY MORE THAN ONE PERSON ON THIS COMMISSION. I

23 WON'T MENTION ANY NAMES.

24

BUT FIRST OF ALL, I DO WANT TO THANK ALL

25

THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION. SOME OF YOU

1 HAVE BEEN MEETING SINCE TEN O'CLOCK
2 YESTERDAY -- NINE O'CLOCK? 10:30 YESTERDAY
3 MORNING UNTIL LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, AT THE
4 REST OF THE MEETINGS SINCE EARLY THIS MORNING
5 UNTIL JUST NOW. SO THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND
6 DEDICATION. I KNOW IT RUINS YOUR BUSINESS LIFE
7 AND FAMILY LIFE, BUT THESE ARE GOOD ISSUES THAT
8 I APPRECIATE YOU TAKING ON AND SPENDING ALL
9 THIS TIME.

10 HAVING SAID THAT, OUR NEXT PUBLIC
11 HEARING -- OUR LAST PUBLIC HEARING IS GOING TO
12 BE IN NICEVILLE, FLORIDA THIS COMING WEDNESDAY,
13 DECEMBER 5TH, FROM FOUR O'CLOCK UNTIL
14 SEVEN O'CLOCK. IT WILL BE HELD AT THE
15 OKALOOSA-WALTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE MATTIE
16 KELLY PERFORMING ARTS THEATRE. SO IF YOU HAVE
17 ANY QUESTIONS, OR THOSE OF YOU THAT ARE OUT IN
18 THE TELEVISION WORLD, IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS,
19 PLEASE CALL THE TBRC HEADQUARTERS IN
20 TALLAHASSEE. IT'S LOCATED AT 100 COLLEGE
21 BOULEVARD, NICEVILLE, FLORIDA.

22 ALSO, I WANT TO TALK ABOUT LOBBYING. YOU
23 MEMBERS ARE GOING TO BE LOBBIED PRETTY SOON.

24 SOME OF YOU HAVE ALREADY BEEN LOBBIED, AND THE

25 PACE WILL PICK UP AS THE MONTH AND NEXT YEAR

1 KICK IN. THOSE OF US THAT HAVE BEEN IN THE
2 LEGISLATIVE PROCESS PRETTY MUCH KNOW HOW TO
3 DEFLECT SOME OF THESE, BUT JUST FOR THOSE OF
4 YOU WHO HAVEN'T BEEN LOBBIED IN THE PAST, YOU
5 KNOW, I WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO -- YOU KNOW,
6 THEY'RE GOING TO PRESENT THEIR SIDE OF THE
7 STORY. ASK WHY. I WOULD ASK WHAT THE OTHER
8 SIDE OF THE STORY IS; WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO
9 REBUT WITH.

10 AND MY INSTINCTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN TO NOT
11 COMMIT TOO SOON, ESPECIALLY IF YOU'RE
12 UNDECIDED. THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH
13 LISTENING TO DEBATE. AND MANY TIMES, MEMBERS,
14 BILLS THAT LOOK GREAT TO YOU NOW, AFTER THEY
15 GET AMENDED DON'T LOOK REALLY PRETTY.

16 SO I'M NOT TRYING TO GIVE YOU AN OUT, BUT
17 I'M TELLING YOU THAT -- NOW, BY THE SAME TOKEN,
18 IF THERE'S ISSUE OUT THERE THAT YOU FEEL -- AND
19 YOU HAVE SOME STRONG PRINCIPLES ON, CERTAINLY,
20 DO WHAT YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE DOING.

21 YOU'RE NOT REQUIRED TO MEET WITH THE
22 LOBBYIST. IT'S UP TO YOUR DISCRETION. IF YOU
23 DON'T WANT TO; YOU DON'T HAVE TO. BUT I WILL

24 TELL YOU THAT INFORMATION FROM LOBBYISTS CAN BE
25 VALUABLE. YOU CAN LEARN A LOT ABOUT ISSUES,

1 GOOD AND BAD. AND FINALLY -- I DON'T NEED TO
2 TELL YOU THIS, I'M SURE, BUT DON'T GO TO LUNCH
3 AND LET THE LOBBYIST PICK UP YOUR TAB OR
4 DINNER. JUST DON'T ACCEPT ANYTHING OF VALUE
5 FROM A LOBBYIST. THAT IS AGAINST THE LAW.

6 SO ANY QUESTIONS ON THAT? I'M NOT TRYING
7 TO TARNISH LOBBYISTS, I'M JUST -- I WANT TO
8 MAKE SURE, I MEAN, THEY HAVE A CLIENT; AND
9 THEIR JOB IS TO PRESENT THEIR ISSUE TO YOU.
10 SOMETIMES THEY'RE DOING IT FOR FREE. I WILL
11 TELL YOU, SOME LOBBYISTS DO IT FOR FREE, OR
12 BECAUSE THEY REALLY BELIEVE IN THE ISSUE, SO
13 JUST -- I JUST WANTED TO HAVE THOSE ISSUES OUT
14 THERE.

15 ALSO, I WANT TO MAKE SURE -- I'M GOING TO
16 CLARIFY SOMETHING THAT SUSAN SKELTON MENTIONED
17 EARLIER IN THE F AND T MEETING REGARDING PCBS.
18 WE'RE GOING TO FIND AS WE MOVE THROUGH THIS
19 PROCESS THAT WE HAVE PCBS THAT ARE VERY SIMILAR
20 IN NATURE TO MEMBER BILLS.

21 AND BY THE WAY, SUSAN, HOW MANY -- WE HAVE
22 REFERRED -- I REFERRED THREE MORE PROPOSALS
23 TODAY, WHICH YOU'LL HEAR ABOUT ON MONDAY, BUT

24 HOW MANY DO YOU HAVE IN PROCESS NOW, SUSAN

25 SKELTON?

1 MS. SKELTON: MR. CHAIR, WE HAVE
2 APPROXIMATELY 20 TO 25 BILLS, SOME OF THOSE ARE
3 DUPLICATED, IN THE DRAFTING PROCESS. THAT'S NOT
4 IN THE FINAL PROCESS BUT IN THE DRAFTING PROCESS.
5 WE HAVE ANOTHER 14 TO 17 BILLS THAT ARE COMPLETE
6 OR SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE IN THE DRAFTING PHASE,
7 BUT THE MEMBER OR COMMITTEE HAVE NOT ACTED ON
8 THOSE YET. AND WE HAVE A COUPLE MORE THAT WE ARE
9 EXPECTING BUT WE HAVEN'T RECEIVED YET. AND THAT
10 REALLY DOESN'T INCLUDE THE WORK THAT THE
11 COMMITTEES HAVE DONE THIS WEEK FOR NEW PROPOSALS.
12 SO WE'RE LOOKING SOMEWHERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF
13 ABOUT 50 PROPOSALS RIGHT NOW, MR. CHAIRMAN.

14 CHAIRMAN BENSE: WE'RE STARTING TO MOVE. THE
15 LOGJAM IS BROKEN. AND ONCE AGAIN, THE QUICKER YOU
16 CAN MOVE, THE EASIER IT IS FOR THE BILL DRAFTERS,
17 BECAUSE THE BILL DRAFTERS IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE
18 PRETTY SOON, ESPECIALLY IN JANUARY, ARE GOING TO
19 BE BESIEGED WITH MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE
20 FILING BILLS, ESPECIALLY IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY
21 AND EARLY MARCH. SO IF YOU CAN GET THOSE DONE
22 BEFORE THE END OF DECEMBER, I THINK THAT'S A GREAT
23 TIME FRAME FOR US TO SHOOT FOR.

24

IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, I'LL BE VISITING

25

WITH SUSAN AND DUDLEY GOODLETTE TO TALK ABOUT A

1 HARD AND FAST DATE, THE LAST DROP-DEAD DATE
2 THAT YOU CAN FILE A PROPOSAL ON. AND MY
3 ANTICIPATION IS IT WOULD BE SOMETIME AROUND THE
4 END OF DECEMBER, PERHAPS THE FIRST WEEK OF
5 JANUARY. WE'LL KICK THAT AROUND.

6 AND IF YOU HAVE SOME INPUT ON THAT, YOU
7 MAY WANT TO LET OUR COUNSEL, DUDLEY GOODLETTE,
8 KNOW, LET SUSAN SKELTON KNOW IF YOU HAVE SOME
9 IDEAS ABOUT WHEN THE LAST HARD AND FAST DATE
10 SHOULD BE. AT SOME POINT IN TIME WE HAVE TO
11 SAY WE'RE DONE. YOU'RE IN OR YOU'RE OUT.

12 WITH RESPECT TO MEMBER BILLS AND PCBS --
13 AND IF I MISLED YOU, I'M VERY SORRY. BUT IN MY
14 EYES, A PCB HAS NO GREATER STANDING THAN A
15 MEMBER BILL. I THINK PERHAPS THE ODDS OF
16 REFERRING IT TO THAT COMMITTEE OR THAT
17 COMMITTEE MIGHT BE HIGHER, BUT I'M
18 FUNDAMENTALLY AS CHAIRMAN GOING TO TAKE A LOOK
19 AT THE PROPOSAL AND THE NATURE OF THE PROPOSAL
20 AND TAKE A LOOK AT THE COMMITTEES AND WHAT
21 WE'VE CHARGED THOSE COMMITTEES TO DO AND REFER
22 TO THE PROPER COMMITTEE.

23 AND I CAN TELL YOU THAT I'M NOT GOING TO

24 HAVE ANY HIDE-THE-BALL STUFF OR SLEIGHT OF
25 HAND. NEVER HAVE DONE THAT, WON'T DO THAT. IT

1 WILL BE BASED UPON INPUT FROM MS. SKELTON AND
2 MR. GOODLETTE.

3 SO JUST -- I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT, WHILE
4 I DO KNOW THAT THE GREAT THING AND THE REASON I
5 ENCOURAGE PCBS AND DISCUSSION OF THOSE ISSUES
6 WAS TO MAKE SURE WE DID DISCUSS MAJOR PUBLIC
7 POLICY ISSUES OF THE DAY, WHAT'S GOING TO
8 EFFECT FLORIDA IN 20 YEARS AND NOT JUST THE
9 NEXT SIX MONTHS, I.E., THE PROPERTY TAX ISSUES,
10 BUT LET'S GO FURTHER AND LOOK OUT -- LET'S LOOK
11 A LONG WAY OUT.

12 SO I DON'T WANT TO MISLEAD ANY MEMBERS OF
13 THE COMMISSION TO KNOW -- TO THINK THAT ANY ONE
14 BILL HAS A HIGHER PRIORITY. I THINK IT'S MY
15 JOB, THOUGH, SORT OF AS THE GATEKEEPER, TO KEEP
16 THE SANDBOXES AND MAKE SURE THAT AT SOME POINT
17 IN TIME, AS IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, WHEN
18 MEMBERS HAVE SIMILAR BILLS, AS WE MOVE FORWARD,
19 THEY'LL BE MERGED, EITHER THROUGH THE AMENDMENT
20 PROCESS, EITHER THROUGH -- OKAY, PERHAPS
21 MR. GOODLETTE OR MS. SKELTON GETS WITH MEMBERS
22 TO SAY, YOU TWO ARE -- YOU'RE JUST REAL CLOSE.
23 WHY DON'T YOU DO THIS BILL, AND YOU BE THE

24 COSPONSOR OVER THERE OR WHATEVER.

25 BECAUSE AS WE KNOW, AS WE GET TOWARD THE

1 END, IT'S GOING TO BE A MAD RUSH TO DO THAT.
2 SO, ANYWAY, I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE -- AGAIN,
3 WE HAVE SAID THAT AS CHAIRMAN MY ROLE IS TO
4 MAKE SURE WE DON'T DUPLICATE EFFORTS AS
5 COMMITTEES. AND I THINK WE'VE DONE THAT ON OUR
6 PCBS.

7 BUT AGAIN, MEMBERS DO HAVE THE ABILITY TO
8 PUT FORTH PROPOSALS, AND IT'S NOT TOO LATE.
9 THERE'S STILL A LOT OF ISSUES OUT THERE THAT WE
10 MAY NOT HAVE PROPOSALS ON, SO DON'T -- DON'T
11 LIMIT YOURSELF.

12 HOW ABOUT IF WE HAVE SOME COMMITTEE
13 REPORTS FROM THE MEMBERS. AND WHY DON'T WE
14 OPEN UP WITH F AND T WITH CHAIRMAN STORY.

15 MS. STORY: THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. AND I
16 ABSOLUTELY AGREE WITH YOUR COMMENTS. AND THE F
17 AND T COMMITTEE, THROUGH OUR PROPOSALS TO
18 INTRODUCE, HAVE HAD THAT IDEA OF WHAT ARE THE
19 MAJOR POLICY AREAS THAT AS A COMMITTEE WE THINK WE
20 NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT WE HAVE THE OPTION TO COME
21 BACK AND ADDRESS, WHETHER THERE ARE MEMBER
22 COMMITTEE BILLS THAT MAY TAKE THE PLACE, WHATEVER,
23 IS NOT REALLY A CONCERN. IT'S JUST WE NEED TO

24 MAKE SURE THESE GENERAL AREAS OF DISCUSSION ARE
25 OPEN, SO WE ARE WHOLEHEARTEDLY IN AGREEMENT WITH

1 WHAT YOU SAID.

2 AT A PREVIOUS MEETING, WE DID AGREE AND WE
3 DID VOTE THROUGH THAT WE WANTED TO INTRODUCE
4 PROPOSALS RELATING TO STREAMLINING AND
5 SPENDING, SALES TAX EXEMPTION REVIEW. TODAY WE
6 VOTED ON AND SAID THAT WE IN THE SAME WAY
7 WANTED TO ENSURE THAT WE KEEP -- MAINTAIN THE
8 ABILITY TO HAVE A PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE ON
9 SALES TAX EXCLUSION REVIEW.

10 THE ACTUAL SHELL PROPOSAL THAT WE AGREED
11 TALKED ABOUT A MANDATED REVIEW PROCESS. SO
12 THAT WOULD BE -- AND WE DID PASS THAT BY THE
13 MAJORITY.

14 THE SECOND THING THAT WE DID AGREE ON WAS
15 PORTABILITY. AND WHAT WE AGREED TO WAS
16 LANGUAGE IDENTICAL TO WHAT IS CURRENTLY GOING
17 TO BE ON THE JANUARY 29TH BALLOT AS IT RELATES
18 TO PORTABILITY, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IF
19 THAT DOESN'T PASS THAT WE WILL THEN TAKE THAT
20 PARTICULAR -- IF IT'S REFERRED BACK TO OUR
21 COMMITTEE, AS IT GOES THROUGH THE PROCESS.

22 THEN WE LOOKED AT SOME OTHER AREAS RELATED
23 TO FAIRNESS AND EQUITY. THERE WAS A PROPOSAL

24 FOR US TO DECIDE WHETHER WE WANTED TO REVIEW A
25 FIRST-TIME HOME BUYER PERCENT REDUCTION. THAT

1 ONE DID DIE FOR LACK OF A MOTION.

2 WE LOOKED AT HIGHEST AND BEST USE. WE
3 HAVE A STATUTORY PROPOSAL TO CLARIFY SOME
4 ISSUES UNDER THE EIGHT GUIDELINES GIVEN
5 PROPERTY APPRAISERS THAT WAS PASSED BY THE
6 COMMITTEE TO MOVE FORWARD INTO THE PROCESS.

7 WE THEN LOOKED AT WORKING WATERFRONTS.
8 THERE WERE TWO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS THAT HAD
9 ALREADY BEEN ENTERED, AND THE COMMITTEE AGREED
10 THAT WE, F AND T, WANTED TO KEEP THE PROPOSAL
11 FOR WORKING WATERFRONT IN SOME TYPE OF SHELL
12 FORM, AND WE DID VOTE THAT THROUGH.

13 WE ALSO AGREED THAT IN THE ISSUE OF EQUITY
14 AND FAIRNESS, WE NEED TO STEP BACK, AND IN A
15 BROADER CONTEXT HAVE AN F AND T PROPOSAL FOR
16 INTRODUCTION THAT ALLOWS US THE FLEXIBILITY TO
17 DEAL WITH OTHER EQUITY AND FAIRNESS ISSUES, AND
18 THAT WE PUT FORWARD A MOTION FOR THAT CONCEPT
19 AND THAT WAS APPROVED. AND STAFF WILL BE
20 WORKING TO BRING THAT TO ONE OF OUR NEXT TWO
21 MEETINGS.

22 ON DECEMBER 6TH WE HAVE A THREE TO FIVE
23 EASTERN TIME -- ONLY PEOPLE FROM THE PANHANDLE

24 CLARIFY EASTERN TIME -- EASTERN TIME CONFERENCE

25 CALL. AT THAT TIME, WE WILL BE ADDRESSING A

1 REQUIRED LOCAL EFFORT SUBSTITUTION.

2 COMMISSIONER WILKINSON WILL WORK WITH STAFF AND
3 PRESENT SOMETHING TO US THERE.

4 WE WILL ALSO LISTEN TO AND CONSIDER THE
5 PROPOSAL CP004 AND SR005 BY COMMISSIONER
6 MARGOLIS RELATED TO SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS ON
7 ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND STORM HARDENING TO
8 STRUCTURES.

9 THEN ON THE 14TH WE WILL LOOK AT OUR
10 ADDITIONAL AREAS RELATED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF
11 SPENDING CAPS OR AT LEAST THE CONCEPTS OF
12 SPENDING CAPS AND CONSERVATION TAX ISSUES.

13 AND THAT'S THE END OF MY REPORT,
14 MR. CHAIRMAN.

15 CHAIRMAN BENSE: GOOD. ANY QUESTIONS.

16 (NO RESPONSE.)

17 OKAY. LET'S MOVE ON TO THE PLANNING AND
18 BUDGETARY PROCESSES COMMITTEE.

19 CHAIRMAN LACASA, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED.

20 MR. LACASA: THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. WE HAD
21 A VERY BRIEF MEETING TODAY. WE TOOK UP ONE
22 COMMISSION PROPOSAL, 00003, BY COMMISSIONER
23 LES MILLER, A RESOLUTION THAT PROPOSES AN

24 AMENDMENT TO SECTION 3, ARTICLE 3 OF THE STATE
25 CONSTITUTION TO CHANGE THE COMMENCEMENT DATE OF

1 REGULAR SESSION TO THE LEGISLATURE TO THE SECOND
2 TUESDAY IN JANUARY AS OPPOSED TO WHAT IT IS TODAY
3 IN MARCH. THE MEASURE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE
4 COMMISSION.

5 AND PRIOR TO ADJOURNMENT -- PRIOR TO
6 COMMITTEE AND PRIOR TO ADJOURNMENT, WE HEARD
7 FROM COMMISSIONER D'ALEMBERTE WHO HAS SUGGESTED
8 THAT WE SHOULD REVIEW THE STATE'S EMERGENCY
9 PREPAREDNESS PLANS AND DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT
10 THOSE PLANS NEED TO BE IMPROVED. AND WE WILL
11 BE SCHEDULING HEARINGS IN THE FUTURE ON THAT.
12 COMMISSIONER D'ALEMBERTE WILL BE IDENTIFYING
13 SPEAKERS TO COME AND ADDRESS US ON THOSE
14 ISSUES.

15 CHAIRMAN BENSE: GREAT. ANY QUESTIONS?

16 (NO RESPONSE.)

17 OKAY. HOW ABOUT THE GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES
18 COMMITTEE? CHAIRMAN MARTINEZ WAS HERE ALL DAY
19 YESTERDAY AND DECIDED HE HAD TO MAKE A LIVING
20 TODAY, SO WE'RE GOING TO LET VICE CHAIRMAN
21 SCOTT. YOU'RE RECOGNIZED.

22 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.
23 YESTERDAY THE COMMITTEE DEALT MUCH OF THE TIME ON

24 EDUCATION ISSUES. AND THERE WERE A NUMBER OF
25 ISSUES, BRIGHT FUTURES, THE CLASS SIZE AMENDMENT

1 THAT WE'VE HEARD PEOPLE TALK ABOUT, HOW YOU
2 MEASURE IT BY THE SCHOOL AND SO FORTH. AND THOSE
3 WERE SOME THAT WE KIND OF VOTED TO GO FORWARD
4 WITH.

5 ALSO, THERE'S AN ISSUE INVOLVING COMMUNITY
6 COLLEGE, LOCAL OPTION FUNDING, WHICH IS -- WAS
7 DISCUSSED AND KIND OF MOVED FORWARD FOR FURTHER
8 DISCUSSION.

9 ALSO, YESTERDAY WE HAD PUBLIC SAFETY AND
10 CORRECTIONS; AND IN THAT AREA, THERE'S GOING TO
11 BE SOME ISSUES BROUGHT FORWARD THAT CAME FROM
12 THE SECRETARY'S PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE.

13 LET ME SEE WHAT ELSE. WE ASKED -- SEVERAL
14 OF THE MEMBERS WERE ASSIGNED TO LEAD STAFF AND
15 WORK IN RESEARCHING AND DRAFTING LANGUAGE FOR
16 THESE PROPOSALS.

17 IN TRANSPORTATION TODAY, WE -- WE
18 DISCUSSED, WE DISCUSSED -- WE HAD PRESENTATION,
19 AND WE AGREED TO MOVE FORWARD A PROPOSAL THAT
20 THE TRANSPORTATION PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT
21 TRANSPORTATION IN THE STATE HAD FOR DISCUSSION
22 INVOLVING FUNDING AND GAS TAX AND SEVERAL OTHER
23 ISSUES THAT -- ALL OF THESE WE HOPE WILL COME

24 BACK TO OUR COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER, YOU KNOW, TO
25 BE DELIBERATED, SO TO SPEAK.

1 WE APPOINTED KIND OF AN AD HOC COMMITTEE,
2 SANDY D'ALEMBERTE, LES MILLER, AND I THINK JADE
3 MOORE JOINED TO TALK ABOUT BRIGHT FUTURES AND
4 PREPAID TUITION. AND ALSO AN ISSUE THAT
5 COMMISSIONER D'ALEMBERTE IS INTERESTED IN ABOUT
6 THE GAMBLING FUNDS, AND WE DID NOT GET TO -- WE
7 DON'T HAVE OUR REPORT FINALLY DONE ON THE COURT
8 SYSTEM, WHICH WILL BE COMING SOON. THEY
9 COULDN'T GET ALL THE DATA ABOUT THE EXISTING
10 NUMBERS OF PROSECUTORS, ET CETERA, AND WATER
11 POLICY.

12 THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE IS
13 DECEMBER 14TH, AND AT THAT TIME, WE'LL HAVE THE
14 STATE COURT SYSTEM AND WATER POLICY AND
15 ENVIRONMENTAL. AND THERE'S SOME PRETTY
16 IMPORTANT ISSUES IN THE WATER POLICY THAT ARE
17 GOING TO BE DISCUSSED.

18 SO ANY QUESTIONS, I'LL BE HAPPY TO ANSWER
19 THEM.

20 CHAIRMAN BENSE: A LOT OF WORK DONE IN THAT
21 COMMITTEE THE LAST COUPLE DAYS. ANY COMMENTS?

22 (NO RESPONSE.)

23 AND I DO WANT TO REMIND YOU, AND WE SAID

24 IT EARLIER, THAT IN THESE COMMITTEES WE MOVED
25 ISSUES FORWARD TO BE LOOKED AT AS PROPOSED

1 COMMITTEE BILLS. JUST BECAUSE YOU MOVED IT
2 FORWARD, DIDN'T MEAN YOU VOTED TO APPROVE IT.
3 AND I'VE HAD E-MAILS AND CALLS FROM PEOPLE WITH
4 THEIR HAIR ON FIRE FOR THE LAST 24 HOURS ABOUT
5 FREE EDUCATION AND NO TUITION FOR COMMUNITY
6 COLLEGES. AND SO, YOU KNOW, I HAD TO CALM THEM
7 DOWN A LITTLE BIT.

8 SO JUST A REMINDER. WHAT WE VOTED ON IN
9 THOSE COMMITTEES WAS TO MOVE THEM FORWARD
10 BECAUSE WE FELT THEY WERE OF SUCH GREAT
11 IMPORTANCE THAT WE NEEDED TO MAKE SURE WE HAD
12 THE PROPER DEBATE ON THEM.

13 AND AGAIN, AT THE END OF THE DAY, I WANT
14 TO MAKE SURE THIS COMMISSION DOES HAVE A DEBATE
15 ON ALL THESE ISSUES, WHETHER WE AGREE OR NOT OR
16 WHETHER WE PURSUE THEM. I WANT TO MAKE SURE
17 THAT WE'VE LOOKED AT THEM CAREFULLY.

18 NEXT WOULD BE GOVERNMENTAL PROCEDURES AND
19 STRUCTURE COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN LEVINE.

20 MR. LEVINE: WELL, MR. CHAIRMAN, YOU MAY WANT
21 TO TAKE YOUR PHONE OFF THE HOOK THEN, BECAUSE
22 WE'RE LOOKING AT PCBS.

23 (LAUGHTER.)

24

OUR COMMITTEE HAD A CONFERENCE CALL

25

MONDAY, AND, YOU KNOW, AGAIN, NOT TRYING TO

1 RECREATE THE WHEEL. WE COPIED COMMISSIONER
2 STORY, HER APPROACH TO WHAT -- HOW TO DO THIS
3 PCB PROCESS. AND WE HAD A GREAT CONFERENCE
4 CALL WHERE WE TALKED THROUGH EVERY ISSUE THAT
5 HAS BEEN PRESENTED BEFORE OUR COMMITTEE, AND
6 ABOUT FIVE ISSUES CAME UP.

7 AND AGAIN, WE TRIED -- THERE'S A LOT OF
8 REALLY GOOD ISSUES THAT HAVE BEEN BROUGHT UP BY
9 MEMBERS, BUT WHAT WE TRY TO DO IN TERMS OF
10 DETERMINING WHETHER WE WANTED TO KEEP THINGS
11 THAT ARE -- CONSIDER THINGS AS PROPOSED
12 COMMITTEE BILLS, WE WANTED TO KEEP IT FOCUSED
13 TO STRUCTURE AND SERVICES OF GOVERNMENT,
14 STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT RATHER THAN TAX POLICY
15 ITSELF.

16 SO A COUPLE THINGS THAT WE LOOKED AT OR
17 THAT WE'RE LOOKING AT AS PCBS INCLUDE ISSUES --
18 COUPLE OF EDUCATION ISSUES RELATED TO THE
19 BLAINE AMENDMENT, UNIFORMITY REQUIREMENTS UNDER
20 THE CONSTITUTION.

21 WE'RE ALSO LOOKING AT CONSOLIDATION AND
22 DUPLICATION OF SERVICES AT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
23 LEVEL. TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF OPPORTUNITY WE

24 THINK IN THE DIALOGUE AND THE TESTIMONY WE'VE
25 HEARD RELATING TO HOW WE EITHER -- HOW DO WE

1 USE CONSTITUTIONALLY INCENTIVES TO DRIVE LOCAL
2 GOVERNMENTS TOWARD NONDUPLICATION OF LOCALLY
3 PROVIDED SERVICES.

4 NOT NECESSARILY FOR THE PURPOSE OF SAYING
5 WE WANT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO CONSOLIDATE.
6 THAT'S OBVIOUSLY A LOCAL DECISION, BUT IT COULD
7 GO THAT FAR. I MEAN, IT'S SOMETHING THE
8 COMMITTEE IS GOING TO EVALUATE.

9 STATE BONDING AND DEBT CAPS. THAT'S
10 SOMETHING THAT THE COMMITTEE FELT THEY WANTED
11 TO LOOK AT POTENTIALLY AS A PCB.

12 ANOTHER ONE THAT I THINK CAN RAISE SOME
13 EYEBROWS, AND I KNOW COMMISSIONER MCKEE HAS
14 BEEN FOCUSED ON THIS ISSUE. AND WE WOULD WANT
15 TO WORK WITH HIM AS WELL, BUT A LOT OF THE
16 MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FELT VERY STRONGLY IN
17 FACT ABOUT THE ISSUE OF SPECIAL TAXING
18 DISTRICTS, INDEPENDENT SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS
19 THROUGHOUT THE STATE. THERE'S ABOUT A THOUSAND
20 OF THEM. THEY RANGE -- THERE'S ALL TYPES OF
21 PURPOSES AND REASONS THEY WERE FORMED. SOME OF
22 THEM WERE FORMED A LONG TIME AGO. PERHAPS THE
23 PURPOSES HAVE CHANGED. DON'T KNOW.

24

BUT THE IDEA OF DEVELOPING A PROCESS

25

PERHAPS TO LOOK AT THOSE DISTRICTS TO DETERMINE

1 IF THERE'S A -- OR AT LEAST CREATING A PROCESS
2 FOR REVIEW OF THEM TO ENSURE THAT THEY'RE STILL
3 MEETING THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSE OR IF THEIR
4 PURPOSE IS STILL NECESSARY.

5 AND THEN ELECTION OF WATER MANAGEMENT
6 DISTRICT BOARDS RATHER THAN APPOINTMENTS, SINCE
7 THEY HAVE SUCH A TREMENDOUS RESPONSIBILITY.
8 AND AT THIS POINT, I'M NOT SURE IF WE'RE
9 LIMITING THAT TO WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS OR
10 IF THAT'S SOMETHING THAT THEY LOOK AT MORE
11 BROADLY IN TERMS OF -- SINCE MANY OF THESE
12 DISTRICTS HAVE TAXING AUTHORITY.

13 SO THOSE ARE SOME OF THE STRUCTURAL THINGS
14 THAT WE'RE LOOKING AT AS A POTENTIAL --
15 POTENTIAL COMMITTEE BILLS.

16 WE DID HAVE TODAY SOME GOOD DISCUSSION ON
17 A CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSAL AND A STATUTORY
18 RECOMMENDATION BY COMMISSIONER MARGOLIS RELATED
19 TO RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY, STORM HARDENING,
20 LOOKING AT THE -- TWO ISSUES IN PARTICULAR.
21 LOOKING AT THE ASSESSED VALUE OF PROPERTY IF
22 PEOPLE INSTALL OR OPERATE RENEWABLE ENERGY
23 SOURCES OR INSTALL ENERGY SOURCE DEVICES SO

24 THEY DON'T GET PENALIZED.

25 ALSO, TOO, WE LOOKED AT -- LOOKING AT

1 STORM HARDENING, THE INCREASED VALUE OF
2 PROPERTY RELATED TO STORM HARDENING. AND WE
3 DID TEMPORARILY PASS THE -- THAT -- THOSE
4 PROPOSALS BECAUSE THERE WERE SOME QUESTIONS
5 THAT WE WANTED TO GET ANSWERS TO AND POSSIBLY
6 MAKE SOME AMENDMENTS BEFORE WE PASS IT OUT TO
7 COMMITTEE.

8 WE ALSO HAD A VERY LONG WORKSHOP
9 DISCUSSION ABOUT A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL
10 AMENDMENT BY COMMISSIONER -- SENATE PRESIDENT
11 MCKAY RELATED TO REQUIRED LOCAL EFFORT AND
12 REPLACEMENT OF REQUIRED LOCAL EFFORT WITH
13 REPEAL OF SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS. AND WE HAD A
14 LOT OF DISCUSSION RELATED TO THE LANGUAGE
15 THAT'S IN THE AMENDMENT RELATED TO WHAT -- THE
16 LANGUAGE IN THE AMENDMENT SAYS SERVICES TAX;
17 ALTHOUGH, I'M NOT SURE, ACCORDING TO
18 COMMISSIONER MCKAY, THAT'S NOT WHAT IT IS. AND
19 SO WE HAD A LOT OF DIALOGUE ABOUT THAT.

20 SO BECAUSE OF THAT AND BECAUSE THERE WAS
21 STILL A LOT OF INFORMATION, COMMISSIONER MCKAY,
22 I THINK, WANTED TO SHARE WITH US -- HE ASKED
23 AND WE AGREED TO DO ANOTHER WORKSHOP ON

24 DECEMBER 14TH. AND THEN WE WILL HAVE A --
25 WE'LL AGENDA THIS FOR CONSIDERATION SOMETIME IN

1 JANUARY.

2 BUT HE DID A GOOD JOB OF EXPLAINING THE
3 BILL, AND I THINK THAT HE WAS GOING TO HAVE THE
4 AUTHOR OF THE BILL COME AND PRESENT TO US AT
5 THE WORKSHOP AND HOPEFULLY HAVE A LOT MORE
6 INFORMATION THEN AND BE READY TO MOVE FORWARD.

7 AND THAT'S IT, MR. CHAIRMAN.

8 CHAIRMAN BENSE: OKAY. ANY QUESTIONS?

9 (NO RESPONSE.)

10 GOOD MEETING. I WAS JUST TALKING TO
11 SUSAN, AND I THINK WE HAVE -- WE'RE OVER THE
12 120 MARK IN TERMS OF MEETINGS SINCE WE STARTED.
13 THAT'S A LOT OF MEETING, FOLKS.

14 WE ALSO HAD A MEETING ON THE AD HOC
15 COMMITTEE ON BUDGET SUMMARY ISSUES WITH MYSELF
16 AND FORMER SENATE PRESIDENT MCKAY, FORMER
17 SENATE PRESIDENT SCOTT, AND FORMER MINORITY
18 LEADER LES MILLER, WHO HAD SPOKEN TO SENATE
19 PRESIDENT PRUITT ABOUT EXCEEDING THIS 75-WORD
20 LIMIT.

21 AND PRESIDENT PRUITT WAS KIND ENOUGH TO
22 SAY HE'S NOT GOING TO PLAY IN IT: I'M NOT
23 GOING TO BE AGAINST; I'M NOT GOING TO BE FOR

24 IT. FIND A SPONSOR AND I'LL BE REASONABLE IN
25 THE MANNER IN WHICH I REFER THE BILL. AND I

1 DON'T THINK WE CAN ASK FOR A WHOLE LOT MORE.

2 COMMISSIONER MILLER, DID I PUT WORDS IN
3 YOUR MOUTH? WHY DON'T YOU SUMMARIZE YOUR
4 DISCUSSION?

5 MR. LES MILLER: NO, SIR, YOU DID NOT,
6 MR. CHAIRMAN. THE CONVERSATION I HAD WITH THE
7 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE WAS HE WOULD NOT OPPOSE
8 IT; HE WOULD NOT BE IN FAVOR OF IT. HE THOUGHT
9 THAT IT SHOULD CARRY THE -- GO THROUGH THE PROCESS
10 JUST LIKE ANY OTHER PIECE OF LEGISLATION WOULD BE
11 IN THE LEGISLATURE, AND THAT WOULD BE A MEMBER
12 WOULD FILE THE BILL IN THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE,
13 IT WOULD BE REFERRED TO A COMMITTEE AND WOULD GO
14 THROUGH THE COMMITTEE PROCESS. THAT'S BASICALLY
15 WHAT IT WAS.

16 CHAIRMAN BENSE: AND BASED UPON THAT,
17 NATURALLY, WE WOULD NEED TO FIND A HOUSE AND
18 SENATE SPONSOR OF A BILL; AND I THINK WE ASSIGNED
19 SENATOR MCKAY TO FIND A SENATE SPONSOR, DIDN'T WE,
20 LES? DID WE -- IS IT SENATOR MCKAY?

21 WHO DID WE ASSIGN TO GET WITH THE SENATE
22 PRESIDENT TO FILE A BILL?

23 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: HE'S GOING TO TALK -- I'M

24 SORRY. SENATOR MCKAY WAS GOING TO TALK TO THE
25 CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS A SUGGESTION

1 THAT THE SENATE PRESIDENT MADE -- CONSTANTINE, OR
2 HE WAS GOING TO FOLLOW UP WITH HIM.

3 CHAIRMAN BENSE: SO THE ONLY PROBLEM WITH
4 THAT IS LOGISTICALLY, EVEN IF YOU CLEAR ALL YOUR
5 COMMITTEES BEFORE SESSION STARTS, SESSION BEGINS
6 ON MARCH 4TH, AND THE EARLIEST WE WOULD KNOW THAT
7 WE HAVE THAT APPROVAL IS BY MARCH THE 4TH. EVEN
8 THEN THE GOVERNOR HAS TO SIGN OFF ON IT. WE NEED
9 TO GET THE GOVERNOR'S APPROVAL ON THAT, SO -- AND
10 I WILL TELL YOU THAT, I THINK, AS A COMMISSION WE
11 SHOULD BE VERY CAREFUL ON THAT, YOU KNOW, THE
12 JANUARY 29TH BALLOT INITIATIVE IS 400 PLUS WORDS.

13 AND THERE'S A POINT IN TIME, AND I'M NOT
14 BEING CRITICAL OF IT, I'M JUST SAYING THERE
15 WERE A LOT OF ISSUES THEY WANTED TO GET IN THE
16 BALLOT. BUT PSYCHOLOGICALLY I THINK AT SOME
17 POINT IN TIME PEOPLE MAY GLAZE OVER AND SAY,
18 WHOA, YOU KNOW, I'M NOT GOING TO PLAY ON THIS
19 OR INSTINCTIVELY VOTE NO.

20 AND SO I DON'T WANT -- IF WE DO THAT --
21 AND THAT'S NOT A REFLECTION ON THE AMENDMENT AT
22 ALL. I THINK IT'S A FINE AMENDMENT. BUT -- ON
23 JANUARY 29TH.

24

BUT I DON'T WANT US TO -- BECAUSE WE CAN

25

GO OVER 75 WORDS -- ASSUME THAT EVERYTHING IS

1 GOING TO BE TWO, THREE, 400 WORDS ON THE
2 BALLOTS -- ON THE INITIATIVES THAT WE AGREE
3 UPON TO GO TO THE BALLOTS, SO -- AND WE'LL KEEP
4 ON PURSUING THAT.

5 I THINK SENATOR MILLER ALSO VISITED WITH
6 SENATE PRESIDENT PRUITT REGARDING THIS
7 COMMISSION CONTINUING ON. I THINK HIS REPORTS
8 WERE, YOU KNOW, I DON'T THINK THAT WE'LL FUND
9 IT NEXT YEAR. IS THAT CORRECT, SENATOR MILLER?

10 MR. LES MILLER: YES, SIR, MR. CHAIR. HIS
11 COMMENT WAS THAT.

12 CHAIRMAN BENSE: AND WE CAN WORRY ABOUT THAT
13 ISSUE -- WE HAVE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT ISSUE AS
14 WE MOVE FORWARD. I THINK THE IMMEDIATE ISSUE WAS
15 THE 75-WORD ISSUE, BECAUSE CLEARLY I WOULD NOT
16 WANT TO SEE GOOD PUBLIC POLICY THWARTED BECAUSE WE
17 SIMPLY COULD NOT GET IT UNDER 75 WORDS. SO I
18 THINK IT'S GOOD PUBLIC POLICY FOR US TO PURSUE
19 THIS.

20 A FEW OTHER HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS. NUMBER
21 ONE, A REMINDER, THE DECEMBER 5TH MEETING IN
22 NICEVILLE, THAT'S FOUR TO SEVEN CENTRAL TIME,
23 NOT EASTERN, CENTRAL TIME.

24

AND OUR -- WITH RESPECT TO COMMITTEE

25

CHAIRMEN, I THINK WE PROBABLY -- LET ME BACK UP

1 A SECOND. AT THE LAST MEETING, THERE WAS A
2 QUESTION ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PROPOSAL
3 DIES IN COMMITTEE. AND TOM CIBULA AND
4 MR. GOODLETTE ALSO WENT THROUGH THE RULES AND
5 WENT THROUGH THE MEETING WE HAD, I THINK, IN
6 EARLY MARCH THAT ADDRESSED THAT ISSUE, AND
7 THE -- WHAT WE AGREED UPON AND VOTED UPON AT
8 THAT MEETING WAS THAT IF A BILL PASSES A
9 COMMITTEE, IT THEN GOES TO THE FULL COMMISSION.
10 YOU KNOW, DON'T STOP -- DON'T PASS GO, DON'T
11 COLLECT 200 BUCKS. YOU GO RIGHT TO THE
12 COMMISSION. A BILL THAT FAILS A COMMITTEE THEN
13 GOES TO THE ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE, AND IT
14 CAN ONLY BE BROUGHT UP AT A FUTURE DATE BY
15 MAJORITY VOTE OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE.

16 IS THAT CORRECT, MR. GOODLETTE?

17 MR. GOODLETT: COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

18 CHAIRMAN BENSE: COORDINATING COMMITTEE. I'M
19 SORRY. THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE. SO I WANT TO
20 MAKE SURE WE WERE -- WE WEREN'T SURE WHAT
21 HAPPENED. WE WENT BACK THROUGH THE RULES AND THAT
22 IS WHAT WE AGREED UPON, THAT THEY -- WITH THE
23 PURPOSE OF A NO VOTE IN COMMITTEE GOING TO THE

24 COORDINATING COMMITTEE -- THE WORLD CHANGES, AND

25 IT COULD BE SOMETHING THAT WE -- THAT FAILS ON

1 JANUARY 10TH MIGHT BE VERY IMPORTANT ON
2 MARCH 18TH. SO WE WANT TO MAKE SURE WE HAD A
3 RELIEF VALVE IN THERE TO RESURRECT A BILL THAT
4 FAILS. BUT I THINK THE COMMISSION THAT DAY
5 REALIZED AT SOME POINT IN TIME A BILL IS DEAD, A
6 PROPOSAL FAILS, AND YOU CAN'T KEEP BRINGING
7 SOMETHING UP THAT FAILS. SO I THINK THAT WAS THE
8 GENERAL CONSENSUS.

9 IS THERE ANY QUESTIONS UPON THAT ISSUE?

10 (NO RESPONSE.)

11 OKAY. COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, I THINK IT
12 MIGHT BE INCUMBENT UPON YOU IN THE NEXT MONTH
13 OR SO TO BEGIN TO FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE
14 RULES, BECAUSE AS WE MOVE INTO JANUARY AND
15 FEBRUARY AND WE -- AND WE GET INTO THE
16 AMENDATORY PROCESS AND WHATNOT, I THINK IT'S
17 IMPORTANT THAT YOU GO TO SCHOOL, AND I WOULD
18 COMMUNICATE WITH -- WITH SUSAN SKELTON ON THIS.

19 YOU MAY SEE AMENDMENTS OR MOTIONS TO LAY
20 BILLS ON THE TABLE. YOU MAY SEE AMENDMENTS TO
21 AMENDMENTS, SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENTS, AMENDMENTS
22 TO THE THIRD DEGREE. I WOULD GET UP TO SPEED.
23 FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT HAVE BEEN IN THE PROCESS,

24 YOU MAY WANT TO GO GET YOUR MANUAL BACK THAT
25 YOU HAD.

1 AND, ALSO, YOU'LL -- YOU KNOW, A MEMBER
2 MAY BE UP THERE AND REALIZE THAT HIS BILL IS
3 NOT GOING TO MAKE IT AND MIGHT WANT TO TP IT.
4 THERE MAY BE MEMBERS THAT DON'T WANT TO TP IT.
5 SO, I MEAN, I WOULD REFRESH MYSELF ON THOSE
6 RULES.

7 AND WE'LL MAKE SURE THAT WE HAVE PEOPLE
8 THAT CAN GIVE THE CHAIRMAN OF THAT COMMITTEE
9 SOME BACKGROUND. BUT I WOULD JUST -- I WOULD
10 GET MYSELF UP TO SPEED ON THE RULES THAT WE
11 HAVE JUST IN CASE IT -- THAT OCCURS.

12 ALSO, A LOT OF YOU -- AND I'VE HEARD FROM
13 A LOT OF FOLKS IN THE AUDIENCE ABOUT: I WANT
14 TO SPEAK ON THIS ISSUE. YOU NEED TO -- YOUR
15 TIME TO SPEAK IS GOING TO OCCUR WHEN THAT BILL
16 HITS THE COMMITTEE, BECAUSE THE BILL SPONSOR IS
17 GOING TO WANT TO BRING ALL OF HIS OR HER ALLIES
18 THERE; AND THE FOLKS THAT DON'T WANT THAT BILL
19 ARE GOING TO HAVE THEIR FOLKS THERE TO SPEAK
20 AGAINST THAT BILL.

21 SO THAT IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY, BOTH AT THE
22 COMMITTEE LEVEL AND THE COMMISSION LEVEL, TO
23 BRING YOUR FOLKS IN OR OUT AND BRING IT INTO

24 DEBATE. AND WE'RE GOING TO HEAR THE BAD THINGS

25 ABOUT A BILL, AND WE'RE GOING TO HEAR THE GOOD

1 THINGS ABOUT A PROPOSAL.

2 SO FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT ARE OUT THERE
3 THAT ARE WORRIED THAT YOU WON'T BE HEARD, THAT
4 IS YOUR TIME TO BE HEARD. AND IF YOU SUPPORT
5 COMMISSIONER MILLER'S BILL ON WHATEVER IT MAY
6 BE, YOU MAY WANT TO COMMUNICATE WITH
7 COMMISSIONER MILLER TO SAY, I'D LOVE TO SPEAK;
8 AND IF YOU'LL WRITE YOUR NAME DOWN, WE WILL
9 RECOGNIZE YOU TO SPEAK. AND THE CHAIRMAN OF
10 EACH COMMITTEE WILL RECOGNIZE YOU TO SPEAK ON
11 THOSE ISSUES.

12 SO I WOULD MAKE SURE THAT -- AGAIN, FOR
13 THOSE OF YOU THAT ARE OUT THERE, THAT IS YOUR
14 TIME TO REALLY PRESENT YOUR CASE IF YOU HAVE
15 NOT ALREADY DONE SO. I THINK ALL COMMITTEE
16 CHAIRMEN HAVE BEEN VERY INCLUSIVE SO FAR TO
17 MAKE SURE THAT -- WE'VE HEARD FROM A LOT OF
18 ECONOMISTS, DEMOGRAPHERS, FROM VERY BRIGHT
19 LAWYERS AND WHATNOT ON ISSUES; BUT NOW THEY'LL
20 BEGIN TO BECOME MORE PASSIONATE ABOUT THE
21 ISSUES.

22 SO IS THERE ANY DISCUSSION ABOUT THAT, ANY
23 QUESTIONS ABOUT THAT ISSUE?

24

(NO RESPONSE.)

25

I WANT TO MAKE ONE MORE -- AND WE'LL GET

1 TO THE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES.

2 COMMISSIONER D'ALEMBERTE TODAY MENTIONED
3 SOMETHING THAT HAS -- IT IS A MAJOR CONCERN OF
4 MINE, AND THAT IS THE ASSESSMENT POTENTIAL OF
5 THE CATASTROPHIC TRUST FUND AND THE CITIZENS.
6 AND I HAVE GRAVE CONCERNS ABOUT THAT, BECAUSE I
7 WAS AT A FLORIDA COUNCIL 100 MEETING ABOUT A
8 MONTH OR SO AGO, AND IF A CATEGORY 3 STORM
9 COMES UP THROUGH TAMPA BAY, I'M GOING TO TELL
10 YOU, THE ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS IS IN THE BILLIONS
11 FOR 30 YEARS.

12 SO I SHARE COMMISSIONER'S D'ALEMBERTE
13 CONCERN ABOUT THAT. AND I DON'T KNOW IF WE
14 ADDRESS THAT IN THE FORM OF A RECOMMENDATION.
15 I'M NOT SURE IT'S A BALLOT INITIATIVE.

16 BUT IF YOU WOULD, IN THE NEXT MONTH OR SO,
17 BE GIVING SOME CONSIDERATION TO THAT, BECAUSE I
18 HAVE GRAVE CONCERNS.

19 COMMISSIONER LEVINE, YOU HAVE SOME
20 COMMENTS ON THAT?

21 MR. LEVINE: A RELATED QUESTION, MR. CHAIR.

22 CHAIRMAN BENSE: YOU'RE RECOGNIZED.

23 MR. LEVINE: THAT WAS A CONCERN THAT YOU

24 STATED EARLY IN THIS PROCESS.

25 CHAIRMAN BENSE: IS YOUR MIKE OFF?

1 MR. LEVINE: MR. CHAIR, THAT WAS A CONCERN
2 YOU RAISED EARLY IN THE PROCESS, AND YOU'VE BEEN
3 VERY CONSISTENT THE ENTIRE WAY THROUGH, AND I
4 AGREE. AND SO, I MEAN, I DO HOPE WE DO SOMETHING.

5 BUT ALONG THOSE LINES, A QUESTION I HAVE
6 OF MORE RECENT -- WHICH I THINK IS OF EQUAL
7 MAGNITUDE, OR CERTAINLY OF TREMENDOUS
8 MAGNITUDE, IS THE ISSUE OF THE STATE INVESTMENT
9 POOL. AND WHAT --

10 CHAIRMAN BENSE: LET ME STOP YOU REAL QUICK.
11 REPRESENTATIVE -- OR COMMISSIONER SCOTT MOVES THAT
12 WE EXTEND TO TIME CERTAIN 4:30. IS THERE A
13 SECOND?

14 MS. STORY: I SECOND.

15 CHAIRMAN BENSE: DISCUSSION? ALL IN FAVOR
16 SAY AYE.

17 (AYES UNANIMOUS.)

18 OPPOSED, NO.

19 CONTINUE ON.

20 MR. LEVINE: YOU KNOW, THE IMPACT POTENTIALLY
21 OF WHAT THE STATE MAY OR MAY NOT DO WITH REGARD TO
22 THE STATE INVESTMENT POOL THAT'S OBVIOUSLY
23 OVERSEEN BY THE STATE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION, AS

24 WE SAW YESTERDAY, THE SBA ACTED TO FREEZE LOCAL
25 GOVERNMENTS FROM REMOVING THEIR INVESTMENTS FROM

1 THE STATE POOL.

2 I'M CURIOUS AS TO WHAT THE STATE'S
3 EXPOSURE IS, BECAUSE THIS IMPACTS LOCAL
4 GOVERNMENT IN A BIG WAY. THIS IS THEIR MONEY.
5 AND I -- IT MAY BE HELPFUL IF MAYBE WE CAN ASK
6 COLEMAN STIPANOVICH OR SOMEBODY JUST TO COME
7 AND EXPLAIN THE ISSUE TO US. I'M NOT SURE IF
8 THERE IS ANYTHING WE COULD OR SHOULD DO OTHER
9 THAN UNDERSTAND IT AND SEE IF THERE'S ANY
10 CONSEQUENCES THAT WE NEED TO BE AWARE OF.

11 CHAIRMAN BENSE: GOOD POINT. COMMISSIONER
12 SCOTT.

13 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: WELL, ON BOTH THE POINTS
14 MR. CHAIRMAN, THE POINT YOU MADE, AGAIN, ABOUT
15 THE -- I MEAN, I HEARD THE NUMBER 26 BILLION FOR
16 ONE SIGNIFICANT STORM, AND I DON'T KNOW IF THAT
17 WAS JUST IN TAMPA OR MOST ANYWHERE. AND SO TO
18 BOND THAT IS LIKE 3 BILLION A YEAR IN RECURRING,
19 OR MORE THAN 3 BILLION A YEAR IN RECURRING MONEY,
20 AND THAT IS A REAL CONCERN.

21 AND AS FAR AS THE INVESTMENT POOL, WHAT
22 LITTLE SO FAR THAT I KNOW ABOUT IT, THAT'S LIKE
23 SOMETHING SET UP TO REALLY ASSIST LOCAL

24 GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE MORE MONEY ON THEIR FUNDS.
25 AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF

1 IT IS AS FAR AS WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO DO BUT
2 JUST HAD A BRIEF DISCUSSION WITH SOME OF THE
3 STAFF IN THE SENATE THIS MORNING ABOUT IT. AND
4 I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT; WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT
5 DOES.

6 ONE THING THAT I WOULD JUST -- AND I
7 PROBABLY SHOULDN'T DO THIS, BUT THAT WAS
8 MENTIONED SOMEWHERE ABOUT THE IDEA OF HAVING
9 THE STATE PENSION FUND BACK IT UP. AND IT'S
10 LIKE NO, NO, NO AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED; AND I
11 THINK THAT'S THE REACTIONS OF A LOT OF PEOPLE.
12 FIRST OF ALL, WE DON'T WANT THAT PRECEDENT, YOU
13 KNOW, GOING ON. BUT THIS DEFINITELY --

14 THE ONLY OTHER COMMENT I MAKE IS THAT
15 WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO COLLECT UP. WE HAVE A
16 LOT OF THINGS THAT -- BILLIONS OF DOLLARS, YOU
17 KNOW, INCLUDING THEM, AND I THINK THAT WE GOT A
18 LOT OF ISSUES. I NOTICE, I MEAN, I WAS
19 WATCHING THE GOVERNMENTAL SERVICE. THERE'S A
20 LOT OF ISSUES HERE, AND THEY'RE ALL GOING TO BE
21 VERY -- A LOT TO DEAL WITH, BUT ONE OF THE BIG
22 OVERRIDING ISSUES IS HOW WE'RE GOING TO FUND
23 THE STATE FOR THE NEXT TEN OR 20 YEARS.

24 AND WHEN YOU START ADDING UP THE TYPE OF
25 PROBLEMS, THE TRANSPORTATION, THE

1 INFRASTRUCTURE, THE SHORTFALLS THAT WE'VE HEARD
2 DISCUSSED, I THINK WE NEED TO KEEP OUR FOCUS ON
3 THAT'S ONE OF OUR MAIN THINGS HERE, IS HOW ALL
4 OF THESE THINGS HERE, HIGHER EDUCATION,
5 WHATEVER, IS GOING TO BE FUNDED.

6 CHAIRMAN BENSE: COMMISSIONER LACASA, YOU'RE
7 READY TO FIRE AWAY. I CAN TELL. YOU'RE READY.

8 MR. LACASA: JUST A FEW REMARKS ON THE ISSUE
9 OF INSURANCE. THE STATE HAS NOT PLEDGED ITS FULL
10 FAITH AND CREDIT TO BACK THE CAT FUND OR CITIZENS.
11 MY UNDERSTANDING IS -- AND I'LL VERIFY THIS, THAT
12 WE HAVE A PLEDGE TO APPROPRIATE IN THE EVENT OF A
13 DEFICIT AND A BOND ISSUE, ISSUED BY THE CAT
14 FUND -- NOT BY CITIZENS BUT BY THE CAT FUND.

15 HAVING SAID THAT, TWO THINGS. FIRST, THE
16 RELIANCE ON ASSESSMENTS WAS A DECISION THAT WAS
17 MADE IN ORDER TO MAKE RATES MORE AFFORDABLE.
18 YOU HAVE EITHER ACTUARIALLY SOUND RATES, WHICH
19 NO ONE WAS ABLE TO AFFORD, OR YOU DEPART FROM
20 THE ACTUARIALLY SOUND RATE AND RELY ON
21 POST-STORM ASSESSMENTS AND CROSS YOUR FINGERS
22 THEY NEVER COME.

23 THAT WAS REALLY THE ONLY WAY THAT WE COULD

24 BRING RATES UNDER CONTROL THIS YEAR. SO FAR

25 WE'VE BEEN LUCKY. AND, OF COURSE, THE

1 LEGISLATURE KNEW IN JANUARY WHEN THEY PASSED
2 THE REFORM THAT THIS WAS ALL ABOUT STAYING
3 LUCKY FOR A WHILE.

4 HAVING SAID THAT, I THINK THAT THIS ISSUE
5 IS IMPORTANT ENOUGH, MR. CHAIRMAN -- AND YOU
6 CERTAINLY PUT IT PERFECTLY -- THAT WE SHOULD
7 HAVE TESTIMONY FROM CITIZENS AND THE CAT FUND
8 MANAGERS ON THEIR PREPAREDNESS NOW GOING INTO
9 2008 AS PART OF COMMISSIONER D'ALEMBERTE'S
10 DESIRE TO EXPLORE OUR TOTAL EMERGENCY
11 MANAGEMENT PLAN.

12 SO I WOULD BE WILLING TO SCHEDULE THEM IF
13 THE BOARD SO DESIRES.

14 CHAIRMAN BENSE: COMMISSIONER LACASA, I WILL
15 TELL YOU THAT, AGAIN, IN THE RECENT FLORIDA
16 COUNCIL OF 100 MEETING WE HAD -- CFO SINK WAS
17 THERE ON PANEL. IT WAS A BRILLIANT PANEL. CFO
18 SINK. ONE OF THE EXECUTIVES WAS JIM REED,
19 NATIONWIDE, ONE OF THE LARGEST REINSURERS. THE
20 GENTLEMAN THAT RUNS CITIZENS INSURANCE COMPANY, AS
21 WELL AS HYATT BROWN, FORMER SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE,
22 AND A VERY RESPECTED PERSON IN THE INSURANCE
23 BUSINESS WERE ON THE PANEL.

24 PROBABLY ONE OF THE TOP PANELS I'VE EVER
25 HEARD, FROM A PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVE. AND

1 MAYBE WE CAN WORK ON GETTING ONE OR A COUPLE OF
2 THOSE FOLKS TO -- ALMOST -- IF WE COULD HEAR IT
3 AS A PANEL NOW.

4 HAVING SAID THAT, I THINK WITH RESPECT TO
5 THE INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO, WHILE THE STATE BOARD
6 OF ADMINISTRATION OVERSEES THAT, YOU KNOW,
7 LET'S NOT FORGET THAT WE'RE A PANEL THAT
8 THEORETICALLY IS SUPPOSED TO MAKE THE TOUGH
9 DECISIONS.

10 I THINK WITH RESPECT TO MANAGEMENT OF THE
11 PORTFOLIO, SBA AND -- I THINK THE LEGISLATURE
12 AND SBA HAVE PLENTY OF LEEWAY. AND THOSE
13 AREN'T -- FROM A POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE, I THINK
14 THEY'LL MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION. I'M NOT SURE
15 WE SHOULD PLUNDER INTO THAT WORLD OR NOT.

16 THE ISSUE OF INSURANCE, HOWEVER, IS VERY
17 DIFFICULT FOR A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OR SENATE
18 TO MAKE SOME OF THESE INSURANCE DECISIONS THAT
19 MIGHT IN FACT NOT KEEP RATES LOW AND MAKE RATES
20 GO BACK TO PERHAPS WHERE THEY SHOULD BE. THOSE
21 ARE VERY DIFFICULT DECISIONS FOR THEM TO MAKE,
22 AND I THINK THAT'S WHY THIS PANEL PERHAPS MIGHT
23 WANT TO VENTURE INTO THAT AREA, TO HELP MAKE

24 THOSE DECISIONS.

25 THAT MAY NOT BE VERY POPULAR BUT WOULD BE

1 VERY PRUDENT FOR THE STATE AT THIS POINT IN
2 TIME AND DOWN THE ROAD.

3 SO I WILL WORK ON GETTING SOME FEEDBACK
4 FROM THE FOLKS IN THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY TO
5 PERHAPS MAKE A PRESENTATION TO US.

6 ANYMORE FEEDBACK, MEMBERS? COMMISSIONER
7 D'ALEMBERTE.

8 MR. D'ALEMBERTE: I THINK THAT THE INSURANCE
9 IS A BIG PIECE OF IT, BUT ALSO WANT TO WORRY ABOUT
10 THE PUBLIC HEALTH PIECE. THINK ABOUT WEST NILE
11 DISEASE SUDDENLY HITTING FLORIDA.

12 MR. BARNETT: IS HIS MIKE ON?

13 CHAIRMAN BENSE: TURN YOUR MIKE ON,
14 COMMISSIONER D'ALEMBERTE.

15 MR. D'ALEMBERTE: I'M SORRY. I'M MISREADING
16 THE LIGHT SO I THOUGHT IT WAS ON.

17 OKAY. IF WE HAD A MAJOR DISEASE STACKED
18 ON TOP OF A HURRICANE PROBLEM STACKED ON TOP OF
19 TERRORIST THREATS, WE COULD JUST DESTROY OUR
20 ENTIRE TAX BASE IN A VERY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.
21 AND IT'S NOT HARD TO IMAGINE THOSE LINING UP.
22 SO I THINK INSURANCE IS A BIG PIECE OF IT, BUT
23 WE OUGHT TO BE PREPARED, BEFORE WE GET OUT OF

24 THE BOX, IF WE HAVE MULTIPLE ISSUES AT THE SAME
25 TIME.

1 CHAIRMAN BENSE: VERY GOOD POINT. ALSO,
2 CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES, BE SURE TO HAVE YOUR
3 MEMBERS HAVE THEIR MIKE ON WHEN THEY SPEAK,
4 BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE BEGINNING TO WATCH THE MEETINGS
5 A LITTLE BIT NOW. AND I WAS TRYING TO KEEP UP
6 WITH A MEETING YESTERDAY, AND CLEARLY YOU CAN'T
7 HEAR A WORD WHEN YOU'RE THERE IN THE REAL WORLD
8 LISTENING TO THESE THINGS. SO BE SURE, CHAIRMEN,
9 REMIND YOUR MEMBERS TO SPEAK INTO THE MIKE.

10 LET'S TALK ABOUT THE NEXT SET OF COMMITTEE
11 MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 14TH HERE IN
12 TALLAHASSEE. AND WE'LL FOLLOW THE SAME
13 SCHEDULE THAT WE FOLLOWED TODAY, SO THE
14 COMMITTEES WILL HAVE ADEQUATE TIME TO COMPLETE
15 THEIR WORK.

16 SO, COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, YOU'VE GOT A LOT
17 OF ITEMS TO ACCOMPLISH BETWEEN NOW AND MID
18 DECEMBER.

19 I ANTICIPATE THAT FROM DECEMBER 14TH
20 THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR VERY LITTLE WILL
21 HAPPEN ON THIS COMMISSION. THE WORLD STOPS
22 PRETTY MUCH, I THINK, THOSE LAST TWO WEEKS,
23 UNLESS -- NOW FEEL FREE, COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, IF

24 YOU WANT TO HAVE A MEETING DECEMBER 21ST, I'LL
25 BE HAPPY TO LISTEN IN AND WHATNOT, BUT I THINK

1 YOU HAVE PROBABLY EARNED A BREAK FOR A COUPLE
2 OF WEEKS.

3 WE TALKED ABOUT MEETING AGAIN -- ALSO, WE
4 WILL NOTICE FUTURE TBRC MEETINGS. IF A
5 COMMITTEE MEETING ENDS LIKE IT DID TODAY AT
6 2:30, THEN WE'LL NOTICE THEM FOR, YOU KNOW, TO
7 MEET UPON THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE MOST PREVIOUS
8 COMMITTEE MEETING SO WE CAN MOVE RIGHT ON AND
9 BE OUT OF HERE REAL QUICK. WE'LL MAKE SURE WE
10 DO THAT. THAT'S MY MISTAKE.

11 WE ANTICIPATE MULTI-DAY MEETINGS, AS WE
12 TALKED ABOUT THE LAST MEETING, BEGINNING IN
13 JANUARY. I WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT, BETWEEN
14 NOW AND DECEMBER 14TH, WE HAVE -- WE'RE
15 SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JANUARY 14TH. THAT'S
16 COMMITTEE MEETINGS BEGIN HERE IN THE SENATE
17 OFFICE BUILDING JANUARY THE 7TH, THAT WEEK, SO
18 IT'S DIFFICULT FOR US TO USE THEIR OFFICES.

19 HOWEVER, THERE ARE OTHER OFFICES WE CAN
20 USE, IF WE HAVE TO USE THE DOUBLETREE HOTEL
21 MEETING ROOMS THERE OR WHATEVER. IF YOU THINK
22 WE SHOULD BEGIN ON THE WEEK OF JANUARY THE
23 7TH -- AND I'M FRANKLY KIND OF INCLINED TO

24 THINK WE HAVE A HUGE SCHEDULE -- PLEASE LET
25 SUSAN KNOW SO WE CAN BEGIN MOVING BACK.

1 MY GUT FEELING IS WE NEED TO START THAT
2 WEEK OF THE 7TH AND BE PREPARED FOR TWO-DAY
3 MEETINGS. BE PREPARED FOR TWO-AND-A-HALF-DAY
4 MEETINGS, BECAUSE SOME OF THESE MORE
5 CONTENTIOUS ISSUES THAT COME UP -- THERE WILL
6 BE A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT WANT TO SPEAK ON THEM
7 AND WANT TO DEBATE THEM, WANT TO AMEND THEM AND
8 MODIFY THEM. SO, YOU KNOW, SOME OF THESE
9 PROPOSALS IN ITSELF MAY TAKE, YOU KNOW, HALF A
10 DAY TO GET THROUGH COMMITTEE.

11 COMMISSIONER MILLER.

12 MR. LES MILLER: MR. CHAIRMAN, KNOWING EVEN
13 THOUGH THE LEGISLATURE WILL BE HERE THE 1ST
14 THROUGH THE 7TH, AREN'T THERE SOME COMMITTEE ROOMS
15 IN THE CAPITOL THAT THEY MAY NOT BE USING DURING
16 THAT TIME THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO UTILIZE?

17 CHAIRMAN BENSE: MS. SKELTON IS GOING TO TAKE
18 A LOOK AT THAT. THERE MAY EVEN BE COMMITTEE ROOMS
19 IN THE SENATE THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE.

20 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: MAYBE THE CABINET ROOM,
21 TOO, IF IT'S AVAILABLE, YOU KNOW, FOR THE FULL
22 COMMISSION, THAT KIND OF THING. MR. CHAIRMAN?

23 CHAIRMAN BENSE: COMMISSIONER SCOTT, YOU'RE

24 RECOGNIZED.

25 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: JUST ONE THING IS I WOULD

1 LIKE US TO TRY TO GET OUR SCHEDULE KIND OF SET,
2 BECAUSE IT'S VERY DIFFICULT. IT'S AMAZING. A
3 COUPLE TIMES IN THE LAST MONTH OR TWO, IF YOU
4 DON'T GET IT FAR ENOUGH IN ADVANCE YOU CAN'T GET
5 AIRLINE TICKETS, AND THEN THEY WANT TO CHARGE
6 LIKE -- FOR ME TO COME UP HERE FOR ONE MEETING WAS
7 \$1,000. SO I JUST DIDN'T COME, BECAUSE, I MEAN,
8 IN GOOD CONSCIENCE, YOU DON'T WANT, YOU KNOW, TO
9 HAVE TO PAY THAT. SO YOU NEED TO SCHEDULE THEM A
10 WEEK OR TWO IN ADVANCE TO GET FLIGHTS THAT -- AND
11 THEN IT'S \$400.

12 I MEAN, BUT NOT JUST THE MONEY, JUST
13 GETTING THE FLIGHTS IS DIFFICULT. SO IF WE'RE
14 GOING TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT WEEK OF THE
15 7TH, WE'VE GOT TO DECIDE AND THEN --
16 SPECIFICALLY SO WE CAN GET -- BECAUSE EVERYBODY
17 ELSE WILL BE COMING UP HERE FOR THE OTHER
18 COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN THE LEGISLATURE. I JUST
19 WANT TO MAKE THAT CONTINUING POINT FOR GETTING
20 PEOPLE UP HERE.

21 CHAIRMAN BENSE: SO LET US KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS
22 ABOUT BEGINNING JANUARY THE 7TH. AND HOPEFULLY BY
23 OUR DECEMBER 14TH MEETING, WE WILL HAVE HAMMERED

24 OUT MOST OF THE JANUARY MEETING DATES, WHERE WE'RE
25 GOING TO MEET, SO YOU CAN MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS.

1 AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, AGAIN, IN JANUARY
2 AND FEBRUARY, COMMITTEES, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE
3 A LOT OF BILLS COME UP. COMMITTEE MEMBERS, I
4 WOULD REMIND YOU THAT IF YOU SEE A BILL COMING
5 UP ON -- OR A PROPOSAL COMING ON THE AGENDA AND
6 IT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU, YOU NEED TO EITHER BE
7 HERE OR YOU NEED TO BE ON THE TELEPHONE, ONE OF
8 THE TWO.

9 A REMINDER: TELEPHONE VOTES COUNT IN
10 COMMITTEE MEETINGS. SO EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NOT
11 PHYSICALLY HERE AT THE MEETING, YOU CAN VOTE BY
12 TELEPHONE ON PROPOSALS THAT ARE PUT FORTH TO A
13 COMMITTEE. SO I WOULD URGE YOU TO ALL BEGIN
14 LOOKING VERY CAREFULLY AT NOT JUST WHEN WE'RE
15 GOING TO MEET BUT WHAT'S GOING TO BE ON THE
16 AGENDA FOR THAT MEETING, SO IF SOMETHING IS
17 VERY IMPORTANT TO YOU, PRO OR CON, YOU'RE THERE
18 TO WEIGH IN ON THE ISSUE.

19 ANY MORE FEEDBACK?

20 (NO RESPONSE.)

21 SORRY TO KEEP YOU-ALL SO LONG.

22 COMMISSIONER MILLER MOVES WE RISE.

23 (THE PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED AT 4:34 PM)

24

25

1

2

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

3

4

5

6 STATE OF FLORIDA)

7 COUNTY OF LEON)

8

9

I, LISA D. FREEZE, NOTARY PUBLIC, CERTIFY

10

THAT I WAS AUTHORIZED TO AND DID STENOGRAPHICALLY

11

REPORT THE PROCEEDINGS HEREIN, AND THAT THE TRANSCRIPT

12

IS A TRUE AND COMPLETE RECORD OF MY STENOGRAPHIC NOTES.

13

I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I AM NOT A RELATIVE,

14

EMPLOYEE, ATTORNEY OR COUNSEL OF ANY OF THE PARTIES,

15

NOR AM I A RELATIVE OR EMPLOYEE OF ANY OF THE PARTIES'

16

ATTORNEY OR COUNSEL CONNECTED WITH THE ACTION, NOR AM I

17

FINANCIALLY INTERESTED IN THE ACTION.

18

WITNESS MY HAND AND OFFICIAL SEAL THIS 30TH

19

DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2007.

20

21

22

23

LISA D. FREEZE, RPR, NOTARY PUBLIC

24

2894 REMINGTON GREEN LANE
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32308
850-878-2221

25

