

point in time we, well yesterday we did advance LB 330 and actually to understand the process here, LB 330 actually was the main budget bill introduced by the Governor. The committee amendments that are pending, if adopted, would become the bill and so it would really become the...it's no longer the Governor's budget bill obviously if the committee amendments are adopted, so everybody understands that. And this is a recommendation of if indeed the revenue is there, how the Appropriations Committee at least recommends to the body that that money be spent. If you look on the green sheet this morning you will see a new line. As you'll remember as the original gray book budget was a budget that balanced above the 3 percent reserve without raising revenue and if that budget would have packed and no revenue changes, we still would have had a 3.3 percent reserve. You can see on down the line actually where we sit today prior to any action on LB 330, as you can see, if you look at the middle of the page there you have a very sizeable reserve at the end of this biennium, 4.48 percent and you actually are above the statutorily mandated 3 percent reserve four years from now. Now so that's what it would take to balance the budget for a four-year period is the reductions we've talked about in the gray book. The tax increases we've talked about prior to the beverage tax at least, you need to make those cuts and raise those taxes to balance the budget out, given the assumptions and there are some definite assumptions in there we could talk about if you wish four years from now. Now obviously one of the painful situations is it's very difficult to cut people's budgets or raise people taxes simply to put money in the bank four years down the road. That's a very difficult process to do. Recognizing that, LB 330 as advanced from the committee and before us in the form of the committee amendments would recommend spending down some of that reserve this year, though not all of it, to put us in a situation, if you would agree to the recommendations contained in LB 330 as amended and pass all the bills out there beyond General File, you can see in the bottom of that page that you're actually above the reserve this biennium but you still have a problem in the out year, though it's...it's a problem, yes, there's some assumptions in there that we'll have to deal with in years to come. I think one of the questions that a lot of people have asked, well, you know, that Appropriations Committee, boy, they talked about a 5 percent cut, they talked, you know, and got everybody riled up about that. Then they talked about a 2 1/2 percent reduction and got everybody fired up about, well that, and now if you pass 330, there's really not