

Lunchbucket who was swilling the tea because he was busy doing other things to pay the bills. I guess there are a number of reasons for it but two that stand out in particular. One is that I believe it is the first step toward the ultimate return of the sales tax to food; the second being that the tie, whether direct or indirect, to the use of the funds for purposes of funding the teachers' salaries. I believe that teachers deserve to be compensated in a just and fair manner. I think they probably need to receive a bump, if you will, in terms of the amount of monies that they receive and the state ought to pick up a portion of that so it doesn't fall on property taxes. But I don't believe that we ought to do it on the beverage tax as is contained in LB 98. The teachers, at least, and I have to give them credit for it, came forth with the funding mechanism from which to...to pay the bill. They said, look, here's what we want, here's how we're willing to pay for it. And they went about the process of trying to make that equation work. My problem is that why not pick on the other areas of sales tax that are out there that...the other exemptions that exist in the system and go about raising those? Why not look at other exchanges of wealth that are out there, that probably are less, I guess, easy to accomplish than the beverage tax as it's put forth. Why not look at those individuals who have the money, the resources, that are going to have to pay the bills? Why not look at some of the professional services that we don't tax and put those into the equation? If we're talking about education and the funding of teachers' salaries for purposes of keeping qualified people in the profession of education, why not look to the other professional areas where services are provided but provided tax exempt, and say to those individuals, you should be supportive and you should be the types of individuals who would support a tax on your services to keep good qualified people in the educational field. But we don't do that because that is a difficult sell to make, because those are the people who will stand up and oppose and hire the lobbyists to come down here and say, we can't tax architects, we can't tax lawyers, we can't tax doctors, we can't tax the CPAs, but we will tax the Joe Lunchbuckets of the state, the average common folk who go in and buy a soda, go in and buy a cup of coffee, go in and buy a bag of tea, and we'll have those people foot the bill because it's going to be spread out to as many people as possible. I don't see a direct relation between the tax and the use for which it's going to be put in place. Even though I agree with the need in that area, I don't see any correlation at all, whatsoever, with regard to where the money is being raised to foot a very