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FLOOR DEBATE

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forward, it will take 33 votes to make that happen. I can also promise that if income tax is the solution, it will take 33 votes to pass as well. Senator Brashear has brought to us, I believe, a unique approach to solving a difficult problem, and I'm going to stand with him on this one. It's new to the body, and I can just simply say that virtually every other level of government in Nebraska does bonding, routinely bonds projects. And what the senator has proposed to us is no more than a revenue bond, pledging revenues from a gas tax to pay off long-term bonds. Everyone else does it, you do it for everything from building a sewer plant to paving streets to any other project that you can think about. We just simply haven't done it at this level before. These are extraordinary times. Maybe it's time to consider it. I think this proposal makes some sense, and I would urge the body to join in support of AM3454. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Senator Mines. Those with their lights on are Senator Raikes, Baker, Janssen, Brashear and about ten others. Senator Raikes, you're recognized to speak.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I, too, am against anarchy and I have serious qualms about atheism. I'm trying to fit in here. I will tell you I don't quite understand why we wouldn't do this. Let me explain. We've talked about property tax, sales tax, surcharge on electricity, income tax. I haven't seen a coalescing around any one of these. And now we've got the people's bondage plan. And I will tell you that I think Senator Bourne makes a very valid point. I'm interested in splitting this issue into two parts. One of them would be the low-level waste and the rest would be operating. I'm not interested in any bonding to cover the state's operating. I'm also, in response to Senator Chambers, I don't know why you would have to pledge the stream of income off gas tax to support bonds for the Low-Level Waste Fund. We now divert money, a half cent sales tax, out of the Highway Trust Fund into the General Fund. We've done that since we raised the sales tax rate to 5.5 percent. Why couldn't you use that money to support...to pledge against the stream and leave the gas tax alone? And again, I'm going by Senator Brashear's point that we're going to keep the Highway Trust Fund harmless, so we're not...the