

April 9, 1980

LB 722

good and the fact that it is a new idea which has a lot of merit and should be seriously considered. However, I'd have to rise today to ask you to support the kill motion by Senator Maresh on LB 722 for a number of reasons. Specifically my concern is that when we do something new, when we pass a new revenue producing mechanism, we should be very careful about that action and the implications of that new legislation, and it is not because I don't think LB 722 is a carefully thought out piece of legislation and will not be perhaps very positive in dealing with some of the problems we have identified with supporting highway construction and maintenance in the state but rather it is a concern that I have that there might be something we haven't seen yet. Perhaps there are some concerns that haven't been addressed yet and these concerns are contained in the study resolution that has been introduced by the Public Works Committee, LR 309, and we will be doing a very intensive study of road conditions in this state, we will be looking at where we have problems in highway maintenance, we will be taking a very comprehensive look at the problem. At the same time, we are going to be looking at who is the cause of this problem, where is the problem originating. We discussed in the past on this floor of this session the concerns about studded snow tires and some other matters that hopefully will help reduce road wear and cost but there are more important issues that have yet to be addressed by this Legislature, particularly with overweight trucks, the use of salt, the problems that we have had with usage of vehicles greater use of the roads and what have you and it seems to me that perhaps the better approach to dealing with this problem is to stick with the present system, increase the support for roads, because it is obviously needed from the information I have gotten, but to hold back on the new approach and to any tremendous increase in the gas tax because of the fact that we need to look at a broader question involved with highway maintenance and highway damage and I really do think that one of the main concerns I have is that we are going to increase the tax across the board, whether it be with LB 361 or LB 722 but it isn't all the motorists in the state that will be paying that tax that are really doing the damage on the roads perhaps. I guess my concern has always been that we have been pretty lenient with overweight trucks. We have enforcement problems. We have problems with trying to see that our weight limits are followed as it is, let alone the fact that I think the weight limits are too high, and the damage from these speeding overweight trucks and other vehicles is really doing a great deal of damage to our roads and I am not so

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