

If you have a \$100 available for a given purpose and you subtract out 14 of those dollars, I say a \$100, then you have \$86, which is less than a 100. So the money that is diverted to the Trust Fund lessens the amount available for any other purpose that this 1 percent tax increase would go for. So there would be less available for the property tax relief. There would be less available for funding the teachers' interests. So that was not what this bill was designed to do, divert money to the Highway Trust Fund. So I hope that you will adopt my amendment, then, at least, we have before us, four-square, the issue of whether or not this bill should be a mechanism to fund property tax relief. We have already been told it's not necessary to increase the sales tax to fund the other aspects of the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schellpeper, please.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Call the question.

PRESIDENT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

PRESIDENT: Debate has ceased. Senator Chambers, would you like to close on your amendment to the amendment?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, yesterday the Legislature, over my strenuous protest, pulled a bill from the Appropriations Committee that would dedicate a portion of the cigarette tax to this infrastructure system. Senator Warner opposed that also, wanting the usual system of appropriations and evaluation of programs to go forth in the ordinary course. Now we have the ironic situation of money going to one of his favorite projects in a method and by means of a method that is not in the ordinary course of appropriating money and setting it aside. Senator Schmit is using an extraordinary method to amend a bill whose purpose was not to raise the sales tax. If I were one of those strict constructionists on the germaneness issue, I would raise it here. But, as I said before, issues are picked and chosen and it's not the germaneness issue. There is no concern about the integrity of our system as far as germaneness. It is used as a tactic to defeat specific issues and that's why I get irritated