

of LB 693 and that is how I propose to provide the money for these grants. LB 699 proposes that we establish a trust fund which uses only a portion of the money in the trust fund for the grants, attempting to work to the point where the earnings alone on the trust would support the funding of the grant projects. I, as most of us look around, knowing full well that we...it's tough to find money this year and I decided that one way to fund this trust fund would take the monies from 1059, from the sales tax on the sale of cars and I would argue that that money in the design of 1059, it was the intent of the Legislature that all monies raised through 1059 went to support education and I would strongly argue that the public thought when they affirmed 1059, that they thought every penny that was being raised through that funding structure was going to go to education. Now that doesn't mean I am opposed to the Roads, doesn't mean that I would not consider it a priority of the state. People have accused me of trying to steal from the Roads Department. I don't think you can steal that which belongs to you in the first place and I would argue that it did belong to the education that was supposed to happen through 1059. Having said that, however, I think that the concepts in the bill are so important that we ought to attempt to bring this bill to the floor for discussion and if we like what is in the bill but don't like the way I've proposed funding it, then let's amend it and change it for other ways to fund it. And I think that we should not wait another year to act on this, the ideas in this bill. It's timely, it's important, and it's worthwhile for all of us to consider, and I would appreciate your support in bringing this committee to the floor. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. I'll now recognize the senators in the following order. Senator Nelson, Dierks, Withem, Crosby, Moore, Chambers, Hefner, Bernard-Stevens and Schmit. Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: I tried to handle my button so Senator Dierks came before I did. I think he is going to handle it, but, Senator Dierks, could we change positions? I didn't mean to get ahead of you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: If you will yield to Senator Dierks and he will yield back.

SENATOR NELSON: I will yield to Senator Dierks and, Senator Dierks, you yield back to me. Thank you.