

to put any additional money into...any sum at all into K-12 education at this time. They are saying let's use the dollars more wisely that we have and, as I say, again, I'm not against Senator Rasmussen. She's to be commended. She's I think very, very bold for a new senator to come in with this kind of a proposal and she hasn't...a couple, few others that very good proposals but, that we have to work with, but with that's all, it just simply is...I don't feel like this is the time and I will tell you that out in greater Nebraska or God's country if we went out and told them that we've raised the price of gasoline five or seven cents a gallon, I'd hate to meet the people. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Nelson. I'll now recognize Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Madam Chair, members of the Legislature, I'm in somewhat of a unique position here, so I'd ask Senator Dierks, the Vice Chair of the Education Committee, to defend the committee's actions because I voted with the minority in the committee, and feel strongly enough about this measure that I am going to rise to ask you to support Senator Rasmussen's motion at this point, for two reasons. One thing is that the two opponents at this point, and a number of questions that came on the floor to me are how much does this cost, as if it's money that is going to be taken out of the General Fund? Senator Rasmussen is doing one thing that very few people do. She's bringing us a bill that has a funding mechanism in it and there is no General Fund impact on this particular bill. What she is suggesting we do is what a lot of people in the state, including our former governor when she vetoed 1059 last year, said needs to be done, and that is that the tax increase that the citizens of our state were asked to bear to fund education, go into education and that is all that she is doing with this. She has identified a number of very worthy programs that can be utilized, that can be supported by this money that is a result of increased taxes that people that are buying new cars are paying. They are being asked to support to pay this because of LB 1059. One of the big criticisms of the bill during the repeal campaign, interestingly enough, one of the big ironies of one of the gentlemen who appeared to oppose this bill because it "raids the Highway Trust Fund" was Mr. Bud Cucca who is now working for the Motor Carriers Association. It was one of the individuals sat down in the Governor's Office last year writing rationale for opposing the bill that we can't ask people to pay