

this may be the compromise that keeps the bill alive but this may not be the best policy. And the question I'm going to ask myself between now and if this does move on to Select File is, should I take the political compromise or should I do what I believe the better policy at this point is based upon the policy choices we made in the prior years and I'd be interested to hear your response to that and if you think that we're violating the integrity of the policy...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...of a year ago, by now jumping and changing that policy. Thank you. Senator Baack, I would yield the rest of my time to Senator Smith if that's possible.

SPEAKER BAACK: Yes, you have one minute, Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to respond really quickly to Senator Kristensen. Yes, I do think that we are jeopardizing the policy that we set in place a year ago in this body and I am totally opposed to what we are doing in the bill, quite honestly. But I don't want to lose everything that we've done at this point in time and this seemed to be a compromise solution that a number of us in visiting with a lot of people and folks out in the Rotunda felt that, quite honestly, this was the best we were going to be able to get in order to salvage what we have given. Now if there's an attempt to reinstate the total 20 percent through the seven years, I would be the first person to give you a green light and be right there helping you. So, honestly, that's the way I feel about it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Warner, you're next to speak on the Smith amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, some general comments first because quite a bit has been talked about the fact that this changes all the time, that there is no stability, which I'd be inclined to agree. It works both ways, by the way. May not be stability to those who are developing plants. Same has been true that there is no stability to long-range planning for funding of roads either if it keeps shifting as it has. I'm kind of like, on this bill, I'm sort of the same position I am on personal property tax. Anything I see I'm not very excited about and I don't like what we have either.