

the one that I am hearing, correct me if I am wrong, but that is the one that appears to be having the most problems, has the most, I guess, bad taste for members of the body, and I don't know what to tell you except that what you are looking at here, in terms of the proposal that Senator Lamb has in front of you, to pick that up are proposals that tend to be industry specific. One of the things that the committee, through the amendments that we sent out on LB 829, discussed time and time again in terms of how do we pay for this is as broad an approach to revenue as we could that affected all business types of entities, not just one entity, although, yes, surcharge on depreciation affected agricultural interests. It also affected business. Yes, the utilities affected agricultural but it also affected business. The sales tax collection reduction in the fee affects the retailers. That is the way we looked at it. How could we have the broadest based approach and do the collection of the amount of money, raise the amount of money necessary to cover the reimbursement to the locals for the loss of the personal property tax base? We chose, basically, these vehicles, very similar to what the Governor had in his plan, and advanced that to the floor. Now we have before us the Governor's proposal that we, frankly, changed with the adoption of my first amendment this afternoon back very much similar to what the Revenue Committee advanced out. You move away from that and what you do by adopting Senator Lamb's proposal, when you attack, basically, the telecommunications industry and the trucks and the roads, is that you give them the ammunition now to go about saying, hey, look, we, too, think that you are making us carry too great a burden for the cost of this proposal. Frankly, I am willing to look at the utilities tax between now and Select File. I'd be willing to sit down and say, is there a fairer way to collect that revenue, that portion of the revenue package, between now and Select File. That, for me, is not locked in stone. Now the Governor may not like that, but the bill is out here in front of the Legislature at this point in time and, as Senator Schmit said, we determine what the tax policy is. But by adopting Senator Lamb's proposal, what you do ultimately, probably, will be, you know, you get divided and you get conquered because you will see folks who then say, okay, well, we were able to lay off utilities expense, the sales tax there, so now let's go after the surcharge on the depreciation, so we don't have to pay that as well. And then you are going to have the roads and the phone companies beat on you for the amendment that is before you in Senator Lamb's, should it be adopted, and you are going to end up with nothing.