

given current trends, unless there are young Spencer Morrissey's that smoke a lot coming up there, that is going to continue to go down. So whereas we appropriate this money now, in three or four years we'll be requesting General Funds to make up the difference, because it's a declining revenue source. So I just...my personal point of view is that cigarette tax is something you should use for one-time type items. Now as we move forward in the whole issue of solid waste management there certainly may be a time when cigarette tax, or revenues, either existing cigarette tax dollars, or I'm not going to rule out the chance of an expansion, may be a logical source of revenue to help the state help local governments construct particularly regional type solid waste plants, one-time capital construction type things. I think that makes some sense. I think, Senator Morrissey, this time your efforts are a little premature, still very topical, because it's something I know you spent a lot of time on, I know all of us are going to spend a lot more time on in the 12 months to come and certainly in the years to come. It's a very, very costly measure. But to run a Select File amendment that raises the cigarette tax, I know Senator Hall and the Revenue Committee had a hearing, a quasi hearing on the issue of raising cigarette tax a while back, but I still would question the wisdom of adding this type of amendment on at this time. Now an amendment that would, for one, just raising the cigarette tax right now I have a problem with. And Senator Morrissey may have been better off using some of that 16 cents (inaudible) in the General Fund.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR MOORE: I don't want to give you too good of an idea there, because then we have to make it up on the other side, the General Fund side, so I don't really want to encourage that. But, Senator Morrissey, I urge you to withdraw this amendment, let it be voted down. Certainly keep that as part of the mix as we discuss the overall funding of our solid waste problem, which we all are well aware of is a multimillion dollar problem that this state, along with our local counterparts, are going to have to own up to. But I think it's a little premature to amend 760 in this manner for this purpose, so I rise to oppose Senator Morrissey's amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, if I