

of what he said. But the issue is clear that there are other things that are behind this bill. I don't know that any of them are any more important but you're looking at bracketing the bill till Tuesday. Tuesday will probably be taken up with other items. That means the earliest we could get to it would be Wednesday and you're still looking at the issue with a number of amendments behind it. Many of them, at least four that I know of, are nothing more than technical amendments that need to be adopted to the bill in whatever shape it takes as it relates to the funding side of it. I will support the bracket motion at this point. I...there is no sense delaying, I guess, this evening. We are not delaying the inevitable. We are going to have to vote on this one way or another. One thing I'm going to throw out for you is that if you don't like the proposal the way it currently sits, be ready to offer amendments and be ready to stay because we're going to have to deal with it. Or we're going to have to pull out the distasteful parts and only pay a portion of that amount back to the subdivisions. That's another route we could take. Think about that. What you do is then say, look, we can live with, you know, the surcharge. We can live with the corporate income tax. Maybe we throw the part of the sales tax collection fee back in there, we get it as close to 60 million as we can. We pay back two-thirds and we leave a third to the locals and tell them to cut their budgets or increase real estate taxes. That's not such a bad idea either. But don't come to the table next time and just fight about who shouldn't have to pay the tax. Somebody is going to pay it. Or make the decision that we're not going to foot the total bill and that's not so bad. That's not such a bad choice, frankly. We can share the responsibility of the problem that we all face. We're going to have to come back and address it next year in a very large way and I hope we think about that over the interim. In the meantime, let's bracket the bill for the time being. I'm willing to work with whomever between now and Tuesday so that proposals can be put in place, talk to individuals who have amendments currently pending to the bill, look at options. I will hold another meeting. We've had more meetings on this issue than the Governor has had proposals for it. But, anyway, be that as it may, I will support the bracket motion and I want the body to know we're going to have to deal with it again, probably as early as Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning of next week.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hall. The speaking order is now Senator Chambers, Abboud, Withem, Will and Schmit. Senator