

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Lynch was the only one left wishing to speak so I think we'll go ahead and close. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, Madam President and members, it's getting to afternoon, a late day and we're going to be here a long time tonight but there is probably nothing more important we're going to deal with in the remaining hours of the session than what we do in 829. And Senator Hall may, indeed, be right, if you adopt this amendment, you may be back in the thick of things trying to solve something, recreate the whole mess. But I think it's kind of like the Fram Oil Filter commercial, you can pay me now or pay me later, because I'm of the opinion if, indeed, you advance the bill as amended, for one, you're going to have a veto that the Governor...I mean, unless he wants to do something else, he's going to have to veto something out of the budget because you don't have enough money to make it work, as simple as that. That's one problem. The second problem is that if you pass the bill as it is right now, the railroads will go to federal court, probably in a couple of months they'll have equalization under the 4-R Act. After that, the remaining public service entities may, indeed, file suit in state court, get another \$3.5 million, you've lost \$6 million, and the people you're trying to get get off the hook one more time. If you don't really solve anything then you'll be back in later sometime this summer probably trying to find another way to recreate that. And I guess, sadly enough, maybe I'm ready to throw in the towel saying for a temporary without a lot of thought we cannot recreate the status quo. And so, given at least that fact in my mind, I think you're better off creating something that generates enough money to pay off the locals dollar for dollar, use an existing tax base that I'm not going to sit here and tell anybody that people are beating down my door to get their income tax raised, I know that's not the case and it's not the case at all. But, on the other hand, if you...you're going to have a lot more constituents to answer when...in July and August when the railroads get exempt from this little surcharge scheme we adopt on the 87th day and you're going to get a raft of phone calls about why you didn't get it right. In October and November when the remaining public service entities get off the hook, you're just having more of the same problems. I guess I just reiterate, as I did before, that if you cannot recreate the tax on the same people you benefited, you need to at least generate enough money to fulfill your promise to the locals and you can do that with sales tax and do it by increasing the depreciation in surcharge. I guess, as I sat and listened to this debate,