

previously, together with providing additional funds to local governments, the cities and counties, in order to keep their property taxes down. In both instances, and one of them which was the same year as 1059, but both instances those bills were indefinitely postponed in committee, not on the basis there was not a need to keep the gas tax down or there was not a need to keep property tax down, provided more adequate funding for local government, but, primarily, that there ought to be a uniform sales tax rate, that we should not start down the route having different sales taxes on different types of items. I am sure that some of you have been told that somehow or other the issue was never discussed in 1059, and the record is significantly different. It was repeatedly discussed, and the public certainly had every opportunity to know that. In fact, you could argue that they sustained that money. It's one of the major issues on the referendum of those who were opposed to 1059 was to make the argument that the 1 percent of the sales tax on motor vehicles was not going to the schools but rather was going to the cities and the counties and the state, and they still voted to sustain that legislation. Probably there has never been as much effort to...as has resulted in the public being informed as to the impact of that additional 1 percent sales tax in its relationship to the maintenance and construction of the highways, streets, and roads in this state. So it just simply is not a valid argument, if you have been told by those who are in support, that somehow or other no one knew that that 1 percent of additional sales tax was going to go where it has traditionally gone, and I will take that opportunity and will talk further when we get...

PRESIDENT MOUL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR WARNER: ...done with this amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I listened very carefully to what Senator Warner said, but on a bill like 1059, to say that the public is aware of the debates that we engage in on the floor on some of the issues, such as that auto sales tax increase, I think is a disingenuous argument because we know that a matter such as that would not be the focal part in the minds of the public. We may