

trucks as well as interstate truck parts as a way of raising the revenue for the Highway Trust Fund. It's somewhat inconsistent that we pay sales tax on our automobiles and a sales tax is not charged on interstate trucks and that the group that is lobbying for maintaining the Highway Trust Fund for the most part are the interstate truckers and they are a group that do not pay a sales tax. So I think that as long as we're going to be consistent and fully fund these programs, I think we need to make sure that we look at sources of funds that are directly related to the purpose involved, in this case keeping up the highways and building the highways as directly related to, in my opinion at least, a sales tax on those companies and entities and individuals who use those roads the most, in this case interstate trucks. So I think that certainly has a reasonable relation one to the other. Senator Withem the other day I thought made an excellent point about the nexus between the \$14 million that would come out of the sales tax on new and used car sales and putting that in the teacher pay bill to fully fund it, and what I am trying to reach out for here is to try to find that same nexus on the other side to fully fund the Highway Trust Fund so that the arguments that Senator Wehrbein makes can be fully considered. The motion to reconsider at this point is premature because we have not considered all the options. There may come a time in this debate when we do not have adequate funding sources and where we have to then make a decision, do we want to take money out of the Highway Trust Fund, in effect, out of the Highway Trust Fund and give it to the teacher pay bill. That's a pretty tough choice. It's one that I haven't made a final decision on yet, but I think we're far, far too soon in this debate to reconsider now. As I say, I have an amendment coming up after this that will deal with other funding sources for the Highway Trust Fund, funding sources that have a direct relationship to utilization of the highways both rural and urban and hopefully the body will at least hold off on reconsidering the vote Friday until we have the options available to us. This is an extremely important debate I think and even though we are delaying consideration of other priority bills by having this debate and prolonging it, it seems to me that it is a debate well worth going through.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: I know I've been a cosponsor of the teacher bill since its inception in 1989 and I would like to see it fully funded. I think that we have made a commitment, not only,