

carbonated drinks are concerned. I think people drink too many carbonated drinks. I'm one of them. Doesn't bother me a bit to tax myself, maybe I'll cut down, and I probably won't, but at least I'll be giving some money to a good cause. But I think it's a much better way to go than taking the money out of the Highway Trust Fund and it's interesting that we put the amendment in, I go out in the lobby and I get threatened by a lobbyist, we're going to put 62 amendments on it. I said, go at it. I guess that's up to you, sir. But I don't like to be approached that way by a lobbyist and I don't care who knows it. And I would encourage you to support that. I think it's a good way to go. Thank you.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator...well just before we go to the next speaker, I would like to introduce some guests of Senator Moore today in the south balcony. We have 24 students from the fourth grade from Seward and their teacher. Would you folks please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being with us. Senator Schellpeper, you're next.

**SENATOR SCHELLPEPER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members, I also rise to support this amendment. I said on the floor the other day that I think that if there is any other form of taxation in any other place we could find some funds, I would sure support it. I think this is an area that we can turn to. Almost everyone drinks soft drinks. You don't have to drink soft drinks, but it's a way to raise some money for our teachers that will be spread across everybody in the whole state which is what we need to do. Trying to take it out of the Highway Trust Fund is not the place to go. That's going to damage our roads. There is no one is going to miss a two cent tax on a can of pop. It's something that will probably continue to grow. It's something that the teachers will have year after year. I noticed in this morning's paper it stated that Berkshire Hathaway has stock in Coca Cola and that stock has really been growing. That shows that people are drinking more soft drinks. So that's where we need to go in order to get more funds for our teachers and other funds that we need to operate state government. I think that any time you get into the service tax or a tax on junk food or pop, those are some taxes that are there. We just need to take a look at them. They're a lot more fair than some of the other taxes that we have been discussing. We probably should have looked at this tax instead of a fertilizer tax. Probably would have been a lot more fair, but