

money from the Highway Trust Fund to give to the teachers. That's a legitimate policy question to be asked and I answer it quite forthrightly, in my opinion, it's a bad policy but it's a legitimate question to ask. And the issue of 1059, as far as the extra cent, once again I will continue to state for the record time and time again the reason it is a...called a raid on the Highway Trust Fund is because that's what it is. It will be a decrease in funding, go to the Highway Trust Fund, there will be an actual decrease, the gas tax will have to go up to make up the difference and there will be a decrease in funding to the cities and counties because of 1272 in its present form. And so call it whatever you want, as I stated yesterday, I was...I offended some of our people trying to make you believe it's a pot of gold sitting there. There is no money sitting there. Tax will have to be raised indirectly if you pass 1272 in its present form. I am opposed to that. I am adamantly opposed to that. If you want to fund the teacher bill, I think you should be forthright about it. You should be direct about it and say you're going to have a funding source for it. I prefer Senator Schrock's amendment over the Senator Bernard-Stevens amendment. I don't necessarily like Senator Schrock's amendment, I...in some way, I think Senator Schellpeper may be on the right path of just having a straight sales tax on all pop and maybe that would be better than a...than a...that wouldn't be as onerous in the public's eyes as a straight pop tax, just having a...you're taxing a portion of food and all beverages that are purchased have a straight sales tax on them. That may be a better way to do it, but nevertheless I will cast my vote for Senator Schrock's amendment because I think if you want a funding source to pay for the teacher bill,...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR MOORE: ...that is a more...I mean, that is, in my opinion, is a new tax revenue, that's what you need, is new tax dollars to pay for that and, for that reason, I will support Senator Schrock's amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Nelson, you're next. I don't see Senator Nelson. Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I rise, as does Senator Moore, in support of this proposal. We have been trying to find alternative methods of financing the teacher pay bill and the proposal that was discussed amongst some of us