

you want to look at the amendment and say this tax is scheduled to increase, and it is not going to increase if you adopt this amendment, and that means we are using money, to that extent, we are using public money by the simple fact that we allow entities to exist out there that are private and that are allowed to benefit from the proceeds of a gambling operation. To that extent, every single one of those operations, every single one of those statutory allowances is a tax concession, just by the mere fact that it is not being run by the state or by a local subdivision. That is the other ironic thing in that this amendment applies only if we do transfer the entity, the racetrack, to a local subdivision. Only if Douglas County owns the racetrack does this tax provision kick in that we are talking about in the Hall amendment. So to that extent, we are simply talking about shifting dollars between the county and the state, and we are saying if there is a public purpose behind the county buying Ak-Sar-Ben, if that is a good thing, which the elected officials of Douglas County have decided, that is a done deal, that decision. Douglas County has decided to purchase the racetrack. All LB 1061 is doing, all the Hall amendment is doing is saying we want to have provisions in statute at the state level to make sure that that track can operate well, that that land can be development for the betterment of the people of Douglas County. With respect to the issue that we are bailing out elitists, that's certainly an argument that can be made. I know, personally, if I thought that was all that LB 1061 was accomplishing in it, I would not be sponsoring it, probably would be opposing it. The elitists to whom we refer, I am not sure I have even been in a room with the majority of them. They probably opposed me when I ran for the Legislature. I am doing this because, as I said just a minute ago,...

SENATOR MORRISSEY: One minute.

SENATOR WILL: ...if Douglas County is going to purchase a racetrack, if they are going to run a racetrack as a public operation, let's make sure we can do it as best possible. Finally, as I said earlier, there is no guarantee that Douglas County is going to make money on the racetrack. I am not going to stand here and make that guarantee. I don't think anyone is. What I do know is that they have gone out and they have hired a private individual that took a racetrack in the State of Washington and turned it around. It is probably the best individual available in the country for the job. This bill allows them to do that. That is the primary purpose of LB 1061,