

very complex issue. And it's an issues that really can't be resolved in a couple of minutes. And let me tell you, I think Senator Lynch is half right and Senator Hall is half right. And that's... (laughter) And I'm...

SPEAKER BAACK: And I assume that makes you all right, right?

SENATOR ASHFORD: I'm all right with this, I'm all right. But the...the issue is this, there are cases across the country which basically say that a state cannot restrict an airport from charging fees. I don't know whether those cases would apply to Senator Hall's amendment or not. But I know that there are cases out there that would interpret these kinds of restrictions one way or the other, and would probably interpret them in favor of the Airport Authorities. But all...but I...but als...but there's another issue here that Senator...I think what Senator Hall has done, by this amendment, is he's talked about right-of-ways and charging fees for use of the right-of-ways. And I think that is somewhat of a difference from...differentiates this particular amendment from a lot of the cases that have come down. Thirdly, it's my understanding, from talking to both sides, Mike Kelley represents the Airport Authority and Don Adams represents the people that want to not pay a fee. And so you've got two lobbyists fighting against each other, and you've got two people fighting against each other. The problem is the airport is not now charging the fee, they may want to in the future. What I would suggest that we do is not pass this amendment this year, take a look at this thing between now and next time, realizing that there probably is a problem that needs to be addressed. And maybe Senator Hall's language needs to be looked at between now and next year, and try to get the parties together, realizing that maybe we will have to make some changes with Senator Hall's amendment. But I think this is a fairly complex issue. They probably both have some good points to be made, but at this point, at this late stage I think it's going to be very difficult to resolve it. I would suggest that we just go ahead and stick with Senator Hall's amendment, and then take a look at it over the interim and try to come up with a resolution. It's my understanding the Airport Authority does not...not...does not now want to charge a fee, but may in the future. So I think it's something we're going to have to address. With that, I would just suggest that we not adopt the amendment at this time.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Senator Will.