

housing committee to identify various forms of revenue, including increasing the documentary stamp tax, surtax on gas and electricity, dedicating any proceeds from new gaming revenue authorized by the state, taking some of the unclaimed property, even assessing a cable TV franchise fee, in addition to the transaction subject to a documentary stamp tax. So they've already identified a number of areas, and, obviously, that is where some of the difficulty has been is because when they finally get to that point where they want to generate the funds, then, of course, the opposition to whatever the source is arises. So relative to just this particular issue, and that is the appropriations from the Legislature, it seems to me that we can just as easily come in later and amend this act, if it becomes law, to provide the opportunity for the Legislature to appropriate funds as it is to include it now and not fund it. So I think that we shouldn't include the language unless we're, in fact, going to do it. I don't see any indication that that's going to occur, and would ask the membership to support the amendment before us.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. President and members of the body, I stand to support the Maurstad amendment. I don't think waiting one year or possibly two years is asking too much. I think we should know what the task force...we should know what...if they're going to give us a report, we ought to know what they're planning on doing. How much money do they want? Who's going to...I know we'll approve that eventually, but I am sure they are going to have some recommendations. I would like to know how those recommendations would come about and how much oversight outside of the budget will we have on the housing project. And like Senator Maurstad said, I think I just read over the weekend we're \$25 million more down on the state budget, and with the...what's going on at the federal level, how much money are we going to have for housing? And how high a priority is it with the people in this body? And we talk about \$8 million state money being leveraged against \$40 million local money, or public, or private money. I'd like to know how that works. I'd like to know how you leverage that. I am sure Senator Jensen could tell me that since he's been in the housing business or the building business for several years. I am sure there is other ways we could finance that. Maybe we should tax...put a tax on...some manner on real estate, but I think