

your coming back. I need to ask you some questions on the Building Maintenance Committee.

SENATOR WILL: Senator Lynch, would you respond?

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes, please.

SENATOR WITEK: When they formed the Building Maintenance Committee was this with the expressed purpose of appropriating or watching the appropriation of that money that's in the cigarette money fund?

SENATOR LYNCH: Well, the 309 committee was formed, I think, long before the cigarette tax money existed. But it was formed for the purpose of maintaining the buildings. And there was an intention at the time, even before cigarette tax, to try to appropriate funds that would meet that responsibility and it never happened. Cigarette tax came along later and I appreciate.... Can I just make one quick statement?

SENATOR WITEK: Sure.

SENATOR LYNCH: And that is some day I hope that this Legislature will recognize cigarette tax money for buildings like we recognize gas tax money for highways. And then nobody will be raiding it all the time to do something else with it simply because it's easy. And I appreciate the opportunity to say that, Senator.

SENATOR WITEK: I agree with you on that. Okay. When you make these decisions, do you decide how the money is going to be appropriated? Do you have to approve, actually approve the expenditures?

SENATOR LYNCH: We receive requests and they're placed in priority to the most important and urgent and et cetera.

SENATOR WITEK: And you approve that.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes, ma'am.

SENATOR WITEK: So we do have an approval, through the Legislature, on the expenditures of, what 120 million every couple years?