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Senator Vrtiska, on the advancement of LB 1349.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'd like to engage in a short dialogue with Senator Wehrbein, if I could?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Wehrbein, you have set on the 309 Task Force on occasion, in fact you're on as an ex officio member, and I think you've seen those CHARTS that Senator Janssen alluded to. I guess my real problem with advancing this whole proposition with this amendment on comes down to the fact that we had sort of been left to believe for a long time that this 4 cents was going to come back and we could start to catch up with our problem, as you're well aware of, in the area of maintenance of facilities that the state has. I guess the only question I have is, where do you think we should go to get the money in order to catch up some of this deferred maintenance that's existing out there and in fact is getting worse as time goes by? I wonder if your committee, when they decided to make this shift to take this money back out of there, if you had any idea where the money would come from in order to maintain these buildings? I'm not criticizing the fact that you need money for the infrastructure of the new technology system, but I'm just curious if there was any discussion in your committee about how we could handle this?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, Senator Vrtiska, there was some discussion on it because we recognize...we get requests for General Fund money for both. This is a recognition of the infrastructure technology infrastructure needs, at this point 2 cents. The other 2 cents would go into 309. We know we've made some progress on 309, I suppose there's never going to be totally enough money, but at least we're adding another \$2.5 million, \$2.6 million a year to that fund. And we also have the infrastructure need in terms of software. And either way it's either more General Fund dollars or whatever. This is, I suppose, a compromise, if you will, to try to do both satisfactorily because we have made some gains on 309, and