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Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 18, 2004 LB 1090

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, we've got the cigarette tax dedicated to it. Otherwise, we've got General Funds dedicated to it. Now we've got depreciation money that does the same thing but it doesn't go through 309, depreciation surcharge.

SENATOR RAIKES: And, in fact, we're backing away on some of the depreciation money to go in there.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: We are this year. Uh-huh.

SENATOR RAIKES: So we're taking money away this year but yet we're promising additional money down the road?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, we're showing dedication to the projects in the future, yes.

SENATOR RAIKES: So, is it the case that the money that is now being diverted away from that fund, via the depreciation mechanism, that that comes back in 2007 as well?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay, so this is to somehow to supplement that. So, in effect, this is a way, is it not, to earmark some General Fund money for building renewal?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Cash Reserve, well, it's a form of that, yes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay, I...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Some feel there is not enough dedication to 309 type events...projects.

SENATOR RAIKES: Although it certainly is possible to appropriate General Fund money, if and when the time is appropriate and the body feels that it is appropriate.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, it is.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay.