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income tax combined with what is being offered here will fill the gap. And if there's a different and a better way, it should be brought forth and I certainly don't think raising the gas tax for 30 years is the way to do it because circumstances alter so greatly during that period of time.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Raikes is next, followed by Senators Baker, Beutler, Stuthman, Loudon, Stuhr, Pederson, Jones, Wehrbein and Chambers. Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Madam President and members. I thank Senator Wehrbein for bringing this motion to reconsider and I hope you will seriously reconsider this. I think he's expressed the reasoning. I would just add to that that I know all of you are interested and concerned about the main job we have, which is making the state's budget work. This does not get everything done but it takes us an important part of the way. So I hope you'll take that into consideration. I hope you'll agree at least at this stage of the discussion to go this far. I think it's, as has already been mentioned, it's a reasonable middle ground and I hope it's something you'll do. I will mention that some of you said, well, if you raise the levy to \$1.07 that now don't even bother to mention that this is simply an option available to school boards because we all know they'll all immediately go to \$1.07. They don't do that. We have recent evidence on \$1.05. For the 2003-2004 school year, when \$1.05 became a possibility for schools, there were only 106 out of 260 that took their levy to \$1.05, and 37 of those already had levy overrides in place so that they were in a special circumstance probably where they had a very small school they were trying to keep open or they had other issues going on. So you had a substantial majority of school boards that elected not to go to the maximum levy. Keep in mind that school boards are out there designated by the state to be fiscal managers for school districts. They are not wild-eyed spendthrifts. They are simply doing the best they can and they are being as frugal as they can. So allowing them flexibility doesn't necessarily