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simply language that reinforces the original agreement that was made with the public. And if the public, in fact, wants to change that, or wants to reject the amendment, they're certainly free to do that. But it seems to me appropriate to include that language, especially in light of the fact that this bill itself is taking money out of the Environmental Trust. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President and members. May I ask Senator Landis a question, first of all?

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Landis.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Senator Landis, is this...will this be as a total package on the ballot, one check mark for this whole issue? Or will this be a separate check?

SENATOR LANDIS: One check mark.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you. I believe that this would be a very serious mistake to do this. I understand the desire to lock in this money, to have the earmark. But as I look back through the last few years of our budget situation--I guess I'm speaking heavily from an appropriations standpoint, and for someone somewhat responsible for a budget for this state--we have avoided a tax increase in many cases in the last two or three years by using both the Environmental Trust and the Educational Trust Funds. And as much as we all hate tax increases, it has been a way for us to go through a very difficult situation. And hopefully we are ending a near...ending the most serious difficulties we've had, coming...and that things will get better. But it does take away a lot of flexibility by locking this in. And I can certainly understand the desires of those to lock in their money, quote, because that's what it's become. But the flexibility that has let us go these last few years has been very vital, I believe. And as a general rule, earmarking in general is not that productive when you have to make serious budget decisions, and we still have some very serious decisions to make over these last 12 days. And part of that is because it has become yes or