

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 8, 2004 LB 32

SENATOR CUDABACK: Are you through, Senator Schrock?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes, I am.

SENATOR CUDABACK: And Senator Janssen? Senator Mines.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. President, colleagues. From what I've seen, this is a dramatic shift by Senator Schrock, and I think a tremendous compromise. To allow this to even be voted on by this body, I think, is a great statement to where he's going with it. I'm going to support this. And I think it's the most appropriate place for fees to deal with storm water runoff, is in property tax. The mechanism is in place now. If local government is in fact accountable at all, it is with property tax, not with fees. Fees can be changed, and fees are under the radar screen many times. With property tax, your friends and neighbors down the street understand the...what they're paying for, and they see it once a year, and it's...you hold your local elected officials accountable to that. I view fees as being a bit subjective. And the process that I saw was subjective, in that the amount of impervious surface that one owned was a subjective...you could quantify it, but the fee itself was...I think, wasn't necessarily accurate and adversely affected large areas with parking lots and those kind of things. You all know that issue. The one question I would have for Senator Schrock, Mr. President, if I could ask him to yield? Mr. President?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Mines.

SENATOR MINES: May I have Senator Schrock yield to a question, please?

SENATOR CUDABACK: You may. Senator Schrock, would you yield?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes, I will.

SENATOR MINES: Senator, since this is going on property tax...or would apply to property taxes, and the levy in municipalities is capped, let's say 45 cents or 50 cents, with interlocal agreements, was there discussion about moving the