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FLOOR DEBATE

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somehow we want to refuse to do it on the basis that we're not solving the whole problem. But when you leave big problems, multiple big problems out there unsolved, then you're going to have extreme difficulty in solving all of them at the same time, and that's what we're doing here. We're leaving huge, gaping holes in our budget in a number of different ways that we're going to have to address in the near future. Why not go on a pay-as-you-go basis? Isn't that the fiscally responsible thing to do? Part of the argument is, well, but there are no General Funds coming in. Well, look at your chart. There's no General Funds in FY '08-09, '09-10, '10-11. And extending the tax for one year in FY '11-12 doesn't set any different pattern than has been established for the previous three years. There are no General Funds in any of those last four years of the program. It is one thing to argue that you had a whole contained bill and that's what we are arguing for and that's what we're going to stick to, but the proponents of LB 1065 didn't do that. They let the fuel tax be eliminated from the bill. If you wanted to wait till next year, if that was the real purpose at the beginning, why was the fuel tax ever in the bill? It shouldn't have been there, I guess. Right? But the fuel tax was in the bill because the original tune and goal of the proponents of LB 1065 was to fund the program the way I'm suggesting you fund it right now. And only now, only now after they've let their bill crack and let the fuel tax fall out of it, are they changing their philosophy about funding the whole program. Now they are in reverse. Now we can't do it piecemeal. Before we needed to do the whole thing, now we can't do it piecemeal. But this isn't piecemeal. This is making LB 1065 whole again in accordance with the philosophy of those who proposed this bill in the first place. It simply substitutes another source of funding for the one they allowed to be taken out of the bill. This amendment is in accordance with the philosophy of the introducers of LB 1065, and they now are departing from the idea of making the fund whole.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And maybe you should ask them why. Thank you.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Beutler. The Chair