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LB 248

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. We're going to revisit this issue a couple of times this year, this session. The question is, what do you do with gas tax and sales tax money? And we're going to have the half-cent sales tax that we were getting on motor vehicles, which we were putting into the General Fund. We're going to put that back into the roads...not back into the roads fund, because it's never been there. But you're going to have a bill that's out here to put that money into the roads fund, traditionally the place where we put gas money and we put sales tax money from the sale of cars. And we're going to say at that time, road money for roads. The time is right. Roads money for roads. That's the normal, standard policy for this state. We've followed it since we initiated, even before the variable gas tax, but we initiated the roads fund. We got money going to the city and counties. It's road money. The Revenue Committee said, yeah, right, it's road money; spend it for roads. That's what the amendment on LB 248 says; that's why it's there. It's the policy that we're going to hear later, when we talk about that sales tax money, and whether it should be in the General Fund, or whether it should be in the road fund. And the cities will be saying to us, that's road money. That \$15 million should be spent on roads, not the General Fund of the state. And they'll be down here saying, gosh,...by the way, they were in front of the Revenue Committee, you know, roads money for roads, unless it's the money we've already got, and then maybe it's not for roads, or it's whatever we think it should be for. Maybe not. Look, if you want the Bourne amendment, that's fine. We can live with that; we've done it a long time. On the other hand, if we're buying something other than roads with this money, we're certainly violating the historical policy that we've used in this case, and I think we've announced it. I will tell you one other piece that's in this, as far as I was concerned, and why I support this amendment and why I'll continue to support it, and that was that there was a bill I didn't like in the Revenue Committee, and it said, cities' occupation taxes may not be based on gasoline. Came out of the Lincoln idea. Mayor Seng tried it a couple of years ago; went no place. But the bill came in from the...from essentially the road lobby saying, wait a second. You can't use an occupation