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FLOOR DEBATE

March 7, 2006

LB 248

said that any sales tax money generated by the sales of automobiles, as it relates to the city's receipts, can only be spent on building roads. So basically what we've said is the city councils in those communities aren't qualified to make the decision on this money. The cities receive sales tax and other user fees to fund their budgets, and we're saying a significant part of those fees is limited. It's no longer discretionary on behalf of the elected city councils. We, the Legislature, in our infinite wisdom, have said you cannot use that money any longer for anything other than this specific purpose. I don't think that's appropriate. And again, Senator Baker, I wish we had discussed this on General File.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BOURNE: I can sense your frustration. I don't blame you for being frustrated. You get an amendment adopted. You think that's the end of the story, and it's not. And for that I apologize. I wish we had discussed it on General File, but there's no place like Select File to discuss such an amendment. I think it's inappropriate that we are limiting the use of these funds in this manner. We have an elected city council in these communities. They should be able to decide where this money goes to. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Mr. Clerk, please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, I have a priority motion. Senator Chambers would move to bracket the bill until April 7, 2006.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your motion.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, we need to not only step back and take a deep breath, but allow some time to pass so that cooler heads and wisdom may prevail. I decided it's time for the "A-Team" to step in. This is a hardball issue, and the road builders are not going to have their way, not easily. There will be a speed bump here and