

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

March 28, 2006 LB 904

to withdraw his...Joel Johnson was going to withdraw his amendment, and I would intend to withdraw this, too, although if there's anybody wants to talk about it, I'll leave it up there a minute. But my intention is to withdraw it. But the reason I introduced it was the fact that we can do what everyone is talking about. We just raise the gas tax. One cent is \$12 million; when I first came in here, one cent was \$10 million. And as I reiterate, going back to the 1988 road plan, when we talked about our pent-up road needs, it was the intention to gradually raise the gas tax, along with the construction costs that are taking place. And now our road costs on our construction plan is up to several billion dollars, and not everyone is getting what they want. Surprise, surprise. And I know it won't go anywhere; I know people don't want to raise the taxes, but I think my point is, we're going to have to live with what we've got, and we're going to have to live within our means if we don't want to raise the gas tax. And I want to put another good word in for the Department of Roads. They have an impossible job almost, to allocate these funds, and it has been de-politicized over the years pretty well, starting with the 1988 program, and even though it doesn't make everybody happy, there is some equity to it. I can't quote the formula off the top of my head anymore, but it is somewhat realistic, and I think that until we're ready to put more money into it, there's...it doesn't need to have a lot more said. So I'll leave it up there just a little bit. If there's no...is there any more lights on, Mr. Speaker?

SENATOR CUDABACK: There are.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay. I intend to withdraw it, but I'll let it play a few times here, if that's appropriate. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. In answer to your question, Senator Wehrbein, there are Senators Kruse, Stuthman, Chambers, and Raikes. So Senator Kruse.

SENATOR KRUSE: Mr. President and members, thank you. I rise in support of Senator Wehrbein's amendment, again, for the purpose of making a point, which he is making. If we really believe that there's more road needs out there, if we really believe