

lineup of opposition that has been carefully planned and they have done their homework and they have got some strong arguments in favor of killing the bill, however, they are absolutely wrong. I think the arguments that we have seen over the past year, over the past several years has indicated more and more that studded snow tires are absolutely not in the best interest of this state or the country for that matter. We have a number of issues that have come to light in recent paths that have emphasized even further the need to ban the use of studded snow tires. First off, the question about tax dollars. What amazes me are the people who are supporting this kill motion are people who constantly talk about the need to save tax dollars and they are absolutely right. We have got to take steps now to decrease the cost of government, to hold our taxes down and yet at the same time, one of the best things we can do to save in road costs, in highway maintenance costs, is to ban studded snow tires and we have seen those figures. It is \$10,000,000 give or take a couple of million dollars but it is millions of dollars that would be saved by the banning of studded snow tires, a significant tax savings, and at this very moment that we are discussing the possibility of killing a bill which could save that amount of tax dollars we are also going to soon be discussing a bill that is going to increase the gas tax to further support highway maintenance and construction costs because of their increasing costs and because of the needs we have in this state. So what would you rather have my friends, is it going to be cutting down of the tax dollar burden by banning the use of studded snow tires or are we going to increase taxes through the gas tax to make up for their use? That is the choice I see. We are going to increase gas taxes to support what we could save through the banning of studded snow tires. That is the fundamental question involved. The other point that has been alluded to is the question about the studies, about the safety of studded snow tires and time and again we have seen that there are two sides to that argument but I firmly believe that the fundamental problem we have seen, the uproar from the people who like studded snow tires that talk about the safety factor, in fact, that is a false sense of security. The reports that I have got are overwhelmingly pointing to the evidence being against the safety of studded snow tires, that in fact, they are in some instances, more dangerous than other optional tires that could be used, that there is a myth basically about studded snow tires, a myth that we need to debunk basically, fundamentally, that studded