

what I look at this as a user's fee, so I guess I really, if they would, you know, charge the same amount of tuition, I guess I would have, look more favorably on this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Peterson, then Senator Lundy.

SENATOR PETERSON: Mr. President and members, I rise, too, to oppose the bill at this time. Last year I, when I seen the budget come out from our own tech school I questioned a few people at the tech school in regards to their budget because they were raising their budget and I said, you know the state level, we're doing a lot of cutting and that's what the message I'm getting from people back in my district is to cut. And I said, it looks to me like you could at least hold it at the level you had the year before and they said, oh, no, we need more money and there isn't anything we can cut. This I'm hearing from the schools and cities and towns, per se, and I don't know where the citizens' concern is out there, but they are telling me to cut but yet when it comes to who spends more money, that the local level or on the state level, and they're hollering about property taxes and property tax relief and yet they let their schools, their towns, their commissioners, tech schools or whatever just keep going and they don't say anything. So I've kind of come to the conclusion, I was before my Norfolk Chamber of Commerce a week ago yesterday. I told them what I'm going to say to you in a minute. I was on a call in half an hour program yesterday morning on one of my radio stations and I said, unless I start seeing something happen on the local level in all areas, and I'm not speaking of my district but other districts around me that could hear my voice, that as a senator who has been very conservative in making cuts on a local level and taking a lot of heat from a number of areas that this senator was going to start voting for tax increases, sales and income tax and I don't care if it goes to 5 percent sales tax or 21 percent income tax because unless something happens on the local level, ladies and gentlemen, we're taking the flak and making cuts here, and I think they darn right can do that same thing on the local level, and the same way with the tech schools. I think they...in fact, in my own, I told them a couple of places where I thought they could cut and they haven't agreed with me but I will not vote at this time to advance this bill and I may change my mind, like I said, and I may start raising taxes and see when they start waking up on the