

to draft tax policy for the state. Now that tax policy comes in and the Legislature takes a look at it and the Legislature makes up the bulk of that committee, seven out of the 12 members are represented by members of the Legislature. That's what their responsibility is to do, is to draft proposals that the Legislature can then examine, peruse, rip apart, make recommendations to amend, but, hopefully, adopt something along the way. Nobody loses their right, their responsibility, or their duty as given by the Constitution to draft tax policy. That just does not happen. It's not a part of this discussion, at least not an appropriate part of this discussion. Right now, you have a choice of addressing the short-term problem, what I would call a responsible way, or addressing it in another way and that would be to let the locals eat it. Just let them eat the increase that they're going to have to face in real property taxes or reduce their budgets. That's what one of the testifiers at yesterday's hearing recommended. Ed Jaksha came in and said, I don't think the state should even deal with this. I think you ought, at best, pick up half of it and the other half ought to come out of the counties because it's their tax base that you're dealing with. So it's not...I don't think...I don't mean to say that that is a responsible approach...

SENATOR CONWAY: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...because I don't believe that. I do believe it is a policy choice that has to be questioned. I'm glad Senator Johnson raised it because it clearly is one side of the issue that not much has been talked about lately and I think it is an area that we need to address here today. Looks like we're going to address a lot of different areas, which is fine. The question before us though is an amendment that deals with a motor vehicle fee schedule. I think that it should be pulled out of the amendment as I have offered it. I would urge your adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I think Senator Hall is correct. We need to remain on the target a little bit, but it is also true that when you do what is being proposed with this amendment it is like anything else that you do. You cannot adjust the throttle on an engine without adjusting other parts of the engine. You have to adjust all simultaneously and at the same time because when you do what we are proposing to do with this amendment we are