

small hit, and that it allows the city to not assess a larger charge or greater fee for things like...for events at these various facilities. So for those reasons, which are totally unrelated to the Wickersham amendment, obviously,....

SENATOR MOORE: Less than one minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...I would again urge that we get back to the issue of the auditorium, that the Wickersham amendment is clearly an issue that will be addressed next year as this body looks at the total picture of sales tax and other state tax base issues next year, and I would urge the body to vote down the Wickersham amendment so that we could get a vote up or down on this issue. Thank you, Mr. President and members.

SENATOR MOORE: Thank you, Senator Ashford. The next speaker is Senator Elmer, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Senator Moore and members. Senator Wickersham has brought us a very interesting proposal. I kind of like the idea, 180 some million dollars in property tax or in sales tax, and a considerable amount of that that would be property tax relief out there. We are within just a smidgen of a property tax rebellion in our state, as evidenced by people's petitions being circulated, and from the comments that are made every time I go to my district. We can address the real problem with this type of a thought, and I am inclined to support this from the standpoint that it is property tax relief. There are always thorny things about levying a tax at the state level and then redistributing them to various portions of the state through formulas, and that's a risk that we have to take, but, you know, this body generally is basically fair and understanding of the needs of the various communities and subdivisions across the state, and is willing, where justified, to allow the state tax dollars to flow to those needs, and I would expect this Legislature and future ones to be compassionate in that way. And I think that something like this does have considerable merit and I intend to support it, Senator Wickersham. Thank you.

SENATOR MOORE: Thank you, Senator Elmer. The next speaker is Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I'd like to ask Senator Ashford a question or two,