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I will be away for the public hearing on the sales tax for carwashes. However, the tax is unfair in that the supplies that go into the carwash process, detergents, waxes and conditioners are all taxable. When I inquired about buying these supplies tax free as the finished product was now taxable, I was told that they are consumables and are not tax exempt.

The sales tax poses a special problem to the industry as well, as our machines can only give change in dollar bills. So either the carwash operator has to absorb the tax, or go up on the price to consumers by more than the tax amount to the nearest dollar, costing consumers more money. As a carwash operator, one of our biggest competitors is car owners just washing their cars in their driveway if going to a carwash seems too expensive. This not deprives the industry of revenue, but also deprives the state the tax money on both the consumables and the finished product as well.