

direction, now is the time to place your vote.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Just for the record, I didn't support either amendment. I had my own CA in their, LR 215CA which was drafted by farmers in my district, so I do support the farm area. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Robak. Does anyone else wish to speak to this amendment? Seeing none, do you have closing, Senator Hall?

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President and members, again, I rise in opposition to the amendment, but the amendment does this, it brings into focus the debate. The arguments from the proponents of 1063 have been...the fact that I think was a good one, that is...but I think it has been well overcome by the amount of time that we spent on this issue for the last, I think, year and very intensely for the last eight months with regard to the 3-R process. The argument was it's an educational process that we go through here on the floor. It's true. It's an educational process not only for the electorate, but for the members of the Legislature from time to time. Ladies and gentlemen, that is not a valid argument with regard to this issue. This issue is not something new to the body. It is not a creative concept that needs to be reformulated here on the floor, needs to be picked apart. What we need to do is find out from the beginning how we focus our time, how we focus our energy and how we're going to shape the tax policy of this state into the future. That's the kind of education, that's the kind of debate we should spend our time on. We do that by voting this proposal up or down. We do that by voting this proposal up or down. What that does is it lets the people know just exactly where we're going, just exactly what we want to do. The comments that you heard as you listened to your colleagues speak about this is that folks are all over the board out there because they don't know what the Legislature is going to do. You've heard it from chambers of commerce, you've heard it from city officials, you've heard it from ag groups, you've heard it from business groups. They need to be aware of what direction we want to take. What this amendment does is allow us to cut to the chase. It says, let's go ahead and decide which path we want to go down for purposes of taxation and then, then go about drafting that proposal, whichever form it may take, put it in a