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FLOOR DEBATE

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that that's any different than cultivating the land for fruit, apples, or something like that.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, what is the...to you, Senator, what is the exemption for agriculture based upon, the inability of agriculture to pay, or the fact that agriculture is somehow innately different from everything else?

SENATOR BROMM: Well, I think my...

SENATOR BEUTLER: I guess I thought it was the inability of agriculture to pay.

SENATOR BROMM: Well, I think that's...

SENATOR BEUTLER: But these nurseries are not in the same category as...

SENATOR BROMM: ...and the inability to get affordable coverage. Yeah. These nurseries, certainly, if you're talking about the ones that I think you are, are going to have to carry workers' comp anyway. They certainly have more employees than what we're talking about here, besides having the concerns of the other aspects of their business, which are not agriculture, like a retail store or that sort of thing.

SENATOR BEUTLER: But if they were a small business in a small town, it still becomes very pertinent, doesn't it?

SENATOR BROMM: Well, if I have 20 acres, Senator Beutler, around my house and I grow trees, and that's all, and I sell those trees to Wal-Mart and they come out and pick them up, I don't see that I'm any less of a farmer than if I had hogs in that 20 acres.

SENATOR BEUTLER: What about the category of florists, those who are cultivating or gardening, raising or cultivating potted house plants, fresh cut flowers, flower bulbs, annuals, perennials, and other bedding plants? Are those intended to be included under agricultural pursuits?