

is fair and for us to use the excuse, we, the elected officials, that a certain constitutional amendment passed that was permissive in nature, for us to use that excuse to pass this piece of legislation I believe is fundamentally wrong. I would thank Senator Wesely, however, for sending around a listing of the counties and the vote on constitutional amendment number three. I took the time to look up my counties that I represent and added them up. My counties turned it down by almost six hundred votes. So I guess I can stand up here in good clear conscience and say no. But I believe that even those that represent counties that approved it need to recognize and remember that it was a permissive constitutional amendment authorizing the Legislature in its discretion to create an exemption and if we create an exemption that is not going to benefit those that deserve the benefit the most, then we have done a disservice to those people that not only voted for that amendment but also voted for us. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, I support it. I was looking at the chart. I guess I can do the same thing as Senator Vickers. Buffalo County supported it 7,230 to 4,847 and Hall County not that much but, now, let's see. Hall County was 7,654 to 6,442. Here is the reason I support it. There has been quite a lot of talk about the people that can afford it are going to get the tax break in this. Look at it this way. Sure, they are going to get it but they are the ones that are doing the experimenting and I think that is the thing we are overlooking and I think that was the purpose of this constitutional amendment. I believe that solar energy is about the same stage as computers were twenty years ago where a computer cost a half a million dollars twenty years ago that you can probably buy now for seven hundred and fifty to a thousand dollars, have the same capabilities. If the people that can afford it and they are the ones that are going to do it, will do this experimentation at really no cost to the government and I am talking about local subdivisions, the whole bit and here is why I say that. If you put in a solar unit, that is in addition. Otherwise, you are going to have the conventional and you still have to have the conventional to supplant it. So it is really not costing any taxes that wouldn't be paid if you built a home without it. There was a picture in the local paper, the Kearney Daily Hub, the other day of a new home that was built and this fellow had a grant. Now I am going to see it. It looked great and his fuel bill, as I remember, was \$23 in December, \$18 and \$24, something. I couldn't believe it and it is a big house. But it is solar and he is experimenting. Now we all can benefit by this experimentation