

act, that is to give them that flexibility if they want. Your option, of course, at that time would be again a special session to further reduce appropriations, either option. But it would seem foolish to me to force a special session by not giving the flexibility to the Board of Equalization. So I would urge that the bill be returned and you vote as you believe will be the end result which will be a 16 percent and take the responsibility and the leadership for doing it. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, Senator Burrows, you are recognized and then the Chair will turn to Senator Carsten. Senator Burrows.

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I oppose this amendment for different reasons than what have been stated. Certainly we are going to have to have a 16 percent rate to maintain state government, but the existing law provides for the State Board of Equalization to adjust and requires they adjust the income and sales tax rate to meet the expenditures that we vote across on this floor. There is no reason for this amendment. We are going to have to have a 16 or 17 percent rate to maintain a decent flow and transition in state government. That is a fact. But there is no reason for this amendment except to bail the Governor out and the commitment he made to hold a 15 percent rate, and that 15 percent rate or the continuation of that costs the State Treasury somewhere between \$50 and \$60 million and we can't absorb it. It is as simple as that. But why we vote on a measure to put it at 16 just because of the Governor's commitment to stay on 15. All we need to do is look for 30 votes to take a responsible action here in the Legislature so we can override any vetoes of the Governor if he becomes irresponsible in adjusting that tax rate to what is needed and has to be taken to provide a continuity of state government. That is what we should be about now is looking to put together at least 30 votes to pass the measures that are necessary for state government. I agree with what Senator Carsten and Senator Warner have said that we will have to have the 16 percent rate. That is true, but we do not need this amendment because the law provides that the State Board of Equalization shall adjust those rates. This measure is nothing but a cover to cover up that commitment the Governor made, to bail him out and it has no other reason to be on this floor...on the floor of this Legislature. So I urge the body to vote down this amendment, proceed with decent and responsible budget procedures in this session. In fact, if we give them any real estate relief, we are going to have to go to a 17 or 18 percent rate, and I think the voters