

April 7, 1982

LB 799

program. I speak against this bill for several reasons, one, that philosophically I don't think that the government has an obligation in this particular area. Five years ago, yes, maybe, or ten years ago to convince people that there were some advantages to solar energy, some other things of that type, fine. But I have seen people build their homes underground. In my area there are several houses, new homes that have been built so that they are below ground. I see people who have been insulating their homes, putting in extra insulation. I see these solar units in many homes as I drive down the road. People are already using them. But we say, well, some of these people can't afford it. Under this particular bill the poor aren't going to use this...take advantage of this bill. The unemployed aren't going to take advantage of this bill. The person who has a new home with a big mortgage on it isn't going to add to his mortgage payments with this type of procedure. Those that are going to take advantage of it are those that can afford to pay their own way and are going to do it anyhow. I question very much that you are going to promote much more use of solar energy by this small...to an individual maybe a small amount of tax credit because the individual already has tax credit from the federal government for this type of program. You will have the same thing as we have in the school weatherization program. Those schools that made their weatherization on their own when they knew they should have, when the gasoline prices and the natural gas prices went up they made the corrections they should have, now they don't receive any return out of this, but those that have sat around and waited for the government to do it for them, they are going to get the benefit out of this. I am just opposed to the whole principle of the government trying to do everything for everybody and I was hoping this country was kind of turning in another direction and realize that the government cannot do it for us. But to suggest that the citizen is too stupid to know that it pays to put in solar energy or any other kind of energy saving devices, I think is a little bit ridiculous. I think the citizens are just as intelligent as the members of this Legislature. The citizen today that doesn't know the advantages of solar energy is not going to be buying the solar energy units with the tax credit. This may not cost much money. This bill they say is not going to mean any new taxes but it is taking about \$500,000 from the severance tax that rightfully should go to the school weatherization program or I would say to the school state aid program where I think the agreement we made last year. But we are taking this severance tax money and using it for other purposes. So, no, it is not taking new money it is just taking away from somebody else. As far as not costing anything, I think

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