

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise in support of Senator Wehrbein's motion to overrule the Chair. I disagree with the amendment that he has offered, but I look at LB 140 and it deals with tax credits, income tax credits. Senator Wehrbein's amendment, the bills that he and Senator Schmit both brought to the Revenue Committee dealt with tax credits. The provision, in my opinion, is germane. I did not argue that when I first spoke in opposition to Senator Wehrbein's amendment because I don't feel that it is outside of the subject matter of LB 140. Now you may not like the amendment, and I don't like the amendment, but...and I am going to oppose the amendment, continue to do that, but the issue here is one of germaneness, and Senator Moore is right when he says we are setting the tone or tenure for the rest of the session because what we are doing is we are narrowing down the germaneness ruling, and Senator Scott Beutler Moore would like to see that as tight or narrow a provision as possible. I would prefer to allow for discussion of these kinds of topics when they come up because it does deal with the same provision. It deals with the issue of an income tax credit or the ability that would be provided in both LB 140 and Senator Wehrbein's amendment. We should not confuse the two. We should not vote for the...or against overruling the Chair based on our opposition to Senator Wehrbein's amendment, because I think what we are doing is stating then that the germaneness issue is one that we want to see as tight and as close knit as possible, and I just don't believe that. I think there should be the ability to discuss topics that fall under the same category. This clearly does. Even though I oppose the amendment, it clearly falls within that category, and I would urge the body to vote to overrule the Chair, but then to vote to vote down Senator Wehrbein's amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Anyone else care to speak to Senator Wehrbein's motion? Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, first of all, I would like to commend a couple of individuals, first of all, commending Senator Hall for his speech. Too often on germaneness questions, we make our decisions based on do we like the amendment under consideration or do we not. We ought to all commit ourselves to rising above that and looking at the type of precedent that we are setting. Senator Moore was 100 percent correct when he said this may well set a precedent for the