

problems that put the farmer in the hole. My time is up?

PRESIDENT: Yes. Senator Abboud, please, followed by Senator Hall and Senator Nelson. Senator Abboud, please.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, there has been a lot of discussion this session about the kinder, gentler State Legislature and I think that that's been apparent the first 45 days. And, for that reason, I will be supporting LR 2 on this stage of debate. I think that we all are aware that the agricultural problems facing this state have been great and there is hope that in the future that farmers will have better years. The urban areas of the state are dependent upon the agricultural economy of the State of Nebraska. I know, for example, that in the City of Omaha approximately a third of all businesses are agribusiness related. It is important that we have a strong agricultural economy in this state in order for the urban centers to flourish and I feel that by keeping the taxes at a reasonable level for the producers of these agricultural products it will, in the long run, help the urban areas as well as...as well as the rural areas. Now as to the constitutionality of LR 2, I think that it's probably something that's going to have to be decided by the court. I know that there are a couple of other considerations that are before the body at this time, one in bill form that I support and I feel that we should enact. And I think that this is just one other development, one other area that the Legislature can look to to try to solve this problem. So I will be advancing...I will be voting to advance this bill onto the next round of debate. I don't...I don't view this as strictly an urban or a rural issue. I view this as a state issue and I am happy to be a part of helping the entire state. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hall, please, followed by Senator Nelson, and Senator Schmit.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, the issue of agricultural land valuation is, again, one that is not limited just to that issue. It has an impact on every other thing we do with regard to property taxes, with regard to valuation, with regard to court cases that are before the Supreme Court right now. This decision with regard to putting this constitutional amendment before the people is not one that can just stand alone. It has to be taken into consideration with an equation that includes a number of other components.