

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would like to speak on two levels, first, an explanation of the status of LB 683 currently in the Appropriations Committee, and the discussions that have been held in the committee relative to the bill. We have had, if I remember correctly, I think three sessions in which it was discussed, and the... I would summarize those discussions as accurate, we didn't take a vote, but the reason is more important that we didn't take a vote was to summarize the reasons, at least, some people considered. This is taking \$4.5 million for an extended period of time from receipts to the General Fund. Normally in the process of all bills that are assigned to the Appropriations Committee that have an appropriation impact, and we all understand that a tax expenditure has no substantive different impact than an appropriation expenditure, the concern that or the discussion in the committee centered around the fact, and it is traditionally the thing that we do, is that once all the hearings are completed and all the requests have come before our committee, is being discussed, that we look at it in total and try to make recommendations to the body as a whole based upon the total references that have been referenced to the Appropriations Committee together with leaving within a total expenditure amount funds in anticipation for other A bills in legislation that others may consider, that are in other committees. So with that background, the feeling, I believe, of those who expressed themselves in the committee, at least, was that whether or not the bill be advanced ought to be a part of the total discussions of the level of appropriations that would be recommended by the committee, because it would have a direct impact of reducing the level of appropriation by four and a half... of the ability of appropriations by 4.5 million, not only now but for a number of years in the future. So that is the position of the discussion of the Appropriations Committee. Now I would like to address the bill and this part, aspect of the discussion, as I recall, hardly took place in the committee because we never got to the point of the merits. I would rise to oppose the bill for a number of reasons, and I am not unmindful of the fact that there are a number of co-introducers of the bill, and I can understand why one would feel that it was appropriate to place the bill on General File, if one is a co-introducer. But there are a number of things that you should keep in mind. Number one, it is the same argument that we have had before many times, and that is whether or not the state gives away its tax base or does it make