

be blamed for higher ag land valuations. They were specifically responding to Supreme Court decisions that said the current valuation system is unconstitutional. Who should be blamed, if not us? Who should be blamed, if not us? Ladies and gentlemen, I wrote a letter to many of you a long time ago and suggested that it is possible to determine equity in taxation. It's not going to be done on the floor of the Legislature, has to be done by those of us who want to work on it, getting together off the floor. Senator Landis suggests I've not been too cooperative. I would suggest that my suggestions, Senator Landis, have not been accepted in very good grace because of what I consider to be an improper or a false premonition. I think that the situation is clear, you adopt my amendment and the people vote for it, they'll know what they have done. The Supreme Court will say they knew what they did. If you do not adopt my amendment, then the gate is wide open. The court may accept it, but, ladies and gentlemen, far more dangerous than the court and their ruling is what will happen in a future Legislature when Senator Chambers or some successor of his decides that agricultural land ought to be valued at more than actual value, at more than market value, and it will then be too late because there will not be any semblance of rural resistance that is significant enough to turn it around. There are not very many issues on this floor as important as this one. Senator Johnson is correct, there is no issue more important. I regret very much that Senator Warner is not on this floor. I would suggest that those of you who are quick to be critical of myself in this instance ought to read how Senator Warner has been voting on this issue for a long time. He's been here 27 years, he's watched a lot of issues come and go, but he is especially concerned about this kind of situation. But you cannot hold back the tide, you can't outrun the wind, and you can't outfly the thunderstorm. And, ladies and gentlemen, that may be the situation I'm in here today. It would be tempting to withdraw the amendment, because no one likes to suffer defeat. But I think it is important, Mr. President, that we vote on the amendment and I want a record vote.

PRESIDENT: Senator Landis, please. Pardon me, that was closing. The question is the adoption of the Schmit amendment. All those in favor...okay, return to Select File is actually the vote. Question is, shall the bill be returned to Select File? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. A record vote has been requested, so be governed accordingly. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.