

SENATOR HALL: Senator Haberman would prefer I didn't, so in that case, I will. Mr. President and members, just for purposes of discussing LB 84, it has been something that has come about because a number of people have sat down and said, look, we have got to address this problem. It does not simply come from the collective wisdom, which is an oxymoron when you think of Senator Lamb, Senator Moore, myself and Senator Chizek. It is clearly something that has come from every member of this body I think at one time or another throughout at least the short five years that I have spent here that they have said property taxes are the number one problem that we face back home, and they have to be addressed, and we have tried. I now that Senator Newell passed a homestead exemption in 1984 that never got funded. It had a price tag on it of \$3,000, and since then the Legislature has every year, year after year, had a number of bills before the Revenue Committee that have dealt with the issue of property tax relief at the local level. This is 1989. It is clearly five years later, and we have the opportunity in LB 84 to effectuate some real property tax relief. It is time to do it. LB 84 is not something that I hold near and dear to my heart but it is the best proposal to come out of a group of diverse individuals, a group of diverse interests, both legislative, executive, urban, rural, as Senator Moore coined it the other day, that have said this is what we can do. This helps as many people as possible to the fullest extent possible that the bottom line affords us to provide. It is a good proposal. I would much prefer that there be a cap in there and I offered amendments to change it so that we would skirt the constitutional issue. Those weren't acceptable to others. That is fine. In order to provide for constitutionality, we have to spread it across the board to the wealthiest of landowners, the wealthiest of property and business and industrial owners. So be it. I questioned that judgment of the AG, to this day I do, but the fact of the matter is in order to get this proposal in there so that we can get property tax relief out to the people that I think most deserve it, and those are the folks at home in those homesteads, because they own those businesses, they own that ag land, they own those commercial properties. Those are the people that you have been hearing for. You haven't heard some of the big corporations saying we need property tax relief. They understand it is an issue, they understand they have to pay it, but those aren't the ones that have been writing you letters and calling you at home. The people that need it are the people at home. Well, the way LB 84 will be amended by returning it at this point is a very good proposal, and there has been a number