

one would get a better benefit than the other. And I would just urge the body to, as before, defeat Senator Conway's amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hall, please, followed by Senator Lamb.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, I rise again in support of Senator Conway's amendment to the bill that would provide for the severability clause as opposed to the way the bill currently exists. And a little bit, to set the record straight, because I did not agree, as a part of this package, to the reverse severability clause as it exists. The reverse severability clause, as is currently in the bill, and Conway's amendment would strike it, was offered by Senator Lamb and Senator Chizek as a Select File amendment to the bill. There was no debate on the issue. Senator Lamb spoke, I asked him one question. I said is this the amendment that I think it is, he said, yes. There was all green lights. I can't remember if I voted for it. I know I didn't vote against it, but I don't think I voted on it. And, if I did vote I voted green. But the issue here is one of putting into a bill a provision that basically tells the courts, you don't have the opportunity to strike whatever you want to strike and leave whatever you want to leave. I just don't see that as something that we should be doing here on the floor. I think that you put that into the bill, we did then because there was question with regard to the cap. I still stand and say that there's nothing wrong with the cap. And again, as Senator Lamb likes to say, I'm not an attorney, but I would like to take that one to court, I guess, because I think we can do it. But I don't think we have time, I guess, to fight that fight. But here you have a provision that says, lock, if I don't get what I want then you don't get anything either. You know, vote any way you want to on it. The fact of the matter is, what you're doing is putting into the bill a precedent that I don't think makes very good sense and that we probably shouldn't do. The homestead exemption clearly is constitutional. No one has ever questioned that, nobody is even going question the balance of this bill. If you believe that, as many have said they do, then you ought to vote for Senator Conway's amendment, it doesn't encroach on the integrity of the bill, nor on the fact that there is going to be property tax relief for every taxpayer that pays into that pot. So I would urge the body to adopt Senator Conway's amendment. I have a funny feeling it's not going to fly.