

please stand and be recognized by the Legislature? Thank you for visiting us today. Senator Hall, please, followed by Senator Withem.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise to oppose Senator Abboud's bracket motion. I think Senator Moore very clearly spelled out the issues surrounding LB 611, the attempt that it makes to achieve, hopefully, long lasting property tax relief by providing us with more information, the sunset provision with regard to foundation and equalization, and to work with the School Finance Reorganization Committee that basically has come up with the opinion that we need to look in this direction. And it does nothing more than that outside of the issue of the provision with regard to school district on your income tax and that being an unfinished form if that's not complied with. So I don't want to elaborate on the issue. It's, I think, very simple and it's a vote, up or down, but to bracket the bill is not a good measure at this point. We need to move on, move forward in this area, so that we are able to come to some final resolution at some point with regard to this issue of the over-reliance on property tax at the local level. I would urge you to oppose Senator Abboud's bracket motion. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem, please, followed by Senator Schmit.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, I am in opposition to the Abboud motion and in support of LB 611. Senator Abboud made an interesting point in saying that the beginning of the session there may have been a need for an LB 611 because we weren't doing much in property taxes, but now that we have passed LB 84 we've done all that needs to be done in the area of property taxes so you don't need LB 611 anymore. I guess I would remind the body that LB 84, if nothing else is done next year or the year after, all LB 84 will have been in the glorious history of the Legislature in the late twentieth century will be a way in which we could funnel some excess state revenue back to the people. We might as well have done it in a direct grant back to the people if nothing else happens. But if you remember when the original gang of four got together and created the compromise package that consisted of a, at that time, a two-year refund of excess revenues through a property tax relief measure for a short-term hold harmless on property taxes, but the commitment was there that LB 611 needed to be a