

tax equity, I will promise neither to introduce nor vote for a mandatory redistricting bill for as long as I remain in this body. That's my offer to separate two issues, control from tax equity. Now, that may count, may not. But I'll tell you this, this is what the proponents of 662 asked for and the opponents denied and said that was at risk in 662. It separated those interests and I can stand by this kind of a delineation of those two issues to secure Class I rights to exist and to control their destinies, at the same time maintaining tax equity. I'll return to Senator Wesely whatever time of his remains.

PRESIDENT: You have three minutes left, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I appreciated Senator Landis' story and his position. He speaks for me in many ways, however, I wouldn't go as far as he does to never agree to ever introduce anything or support anything on school consolidation. I, too, support that concept. But I also tell you this, and my promise would be this, if you pass this bill with the Lamb amendment, I'll be back next year with a school consolidation bill to try and deal with this on a mandatory basis, because it's obvious that the attempt to compromise that Senator Withem has tried to make, the attempt to try and reach a common ground isn't being successful, if we go back the way that Senator Lamb wants us to go. The very issue that Senator Landis has identified is the very issue that spurs us, in the urban areas, to be so concerned about this issue. The local control we can understand, we appreciate and we respect. But the tax haven problem that's been out there, the tax haven issue that has driven so many of us to support, in the past, legislation to consolidate schools remains, if you adopt the Lamb amendment. Take away that issue, by passing the bill as it is currently, without the Lamb amendment, take away that issue and you take away the fire in the belly of many of us that have been the leaders in trying to deal with that issue. As Senator Landis said, he's willing to go quite a long ways in dropping the issue. I don't know that I'd go that far. But I tell you this, that there are many others like us, like David and myself and others who are here and in the future will be here, who care a great deal about this issue, it won't go away, it's been there forever and will remain forever, but it will be in a suspended state, I think, without the sort of animosity if you pass the bill without the Lamb amendment. But the Lamb amendment positions us, once again, to have to deal with the tax haven issue. It's the issue that concerns us, it's the issue