

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Langford is pleased to announce that she has a guest under our north balcony, John Brawand of Kearney. Mr. Brawand, would you please stand and be recognized. Thank you. Let the record record that he has been here. Thank you. Senator Bernard-Stevens, would you are to discuss the amendment to the committee amendments?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will talk about the amendment in maybe a little bit different light to try to put a little bit different perspective on it. I remember my first year down here. I was working along with Senator Scofield and numerous others on LB 1091 which was a bill that would reimburse and hold harmless, if you will, the cities and counties and school districts that were hit very, very hard by the 4-R Act and the railroad lawsuit at the time. I was sitting here thinking of the...of the difficulty that we had in the discussions on the floor and with the Department of Revenue and others about how much money we want to do in a one-time cost and it was emphasized by this body particularly that it needed to be a one-time cost, not a cost that would be a burden to the state forever and ever. And that was one of the ways that it passed. We kind of set a policy that when people are hurt on tax policy we may want to hold harmless per se but we want to give them time to adjust and we certainly want to give them adequate opportunity to do what's best for their districts and schools and cities but we don't want to have a bail out for the whole...for infinity. The same issue can...is going to be with us again this year on the pipeline case and once again the Legislature will make the policy that, yes, we want to help those that are hurt right now but we're certainly not going to put in this budget forever, as Senator Byars well knows. We're not going to do that. And I remember Senator Lamb's position on the railroad lawsuit and others on how much we should give and how far we should hold harmless. And I think the Legislature has made a good policy statement in the past and we need to continue. There are a lot of things out there that are inequitable. There are a lot of things out there through no doings of people or entities that they may be hurt and the Legislature needs to help them at the time and the Legislature needs to phase that help out so they can once again stand on their own. But we can't fix everyone's problem forever. We couldn't afford to do that. And I think this is the situation on the Lamb amendment. Senator Lamb is trying to say there are some people that are going to be hurt and we need to fix it forever. And it does a couple things. Number one, there are