

inequities out there now and I have not heard anyone since I have been down here that would say, you know, on our property tax inequalities that we have, we would like to hold harmless those taxpayers who are paying an overburdened share. We would like to hold harmless that group and do it forever. I haven't heard that. I have heard a lot of proposals of trying to fix property tax but not anything that would help hold harmless. And I think the point I'm trying to make is that the amendment that the committees, the joint committee of Revenue and Education agreed to, and that's the committee amendments before you, is a compassionate one from the committee saying, we understand that there are some out there that will be hurt. Now some of those people, by the way, have benefited for years and years and years. But there are some who have not necessarily benefited and they have paid their fare share that may be hurt and we want to do everything we can to phase this in. But to put something for the long term would, in essence, say the inequalities that were out there, we are, in fact, going to maintain those inequalities permanently. And it goes against...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...what we in the body have, in fact, set as good policy in the past and I would urge that the body, at least at this time, not go with Senator Lamb's amendment to the amendment but give Senator Withem and others a chance to work with and see if there is a middle ground. I don't suspect there really is on this particular issue. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Forty-five seconds.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I will not give the rest of that time then to Senator Withem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Landis, would you care to discuss the amendment to the committee amendments?

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I'm a co-sponsor of 1059 and I support the measure. And I support the measure even after having looked through the report prepared by the Nebraska Department of Revenue on the tax burden shift among the economic sectors from individual taxpayers. I represent an area of Nebraska that doesn't have a single farm or a single agricultural taxpayer in it. I look at this book and