

others to correct that problem because I saw this as being somewhat of a movement that was beyond what I thought the purpose of the call was called for which was to, not to change the status quo, not to repeal certain exemptions that had been in law before this special session had been called. So I drafted the amendment, I took it to committee and Senator Hall and his committee considered it, along with other options that were presented to him and the committee, at the public hearing and it was put in the bill. At this point, Senator Chambers is asking this body to consider taking that amendment out. I would ask you to retain that section because Senator Schmit has already covered some of the points I was going to make, but I think that what am attempting to do is preserve our status quo as best I can to save the state, as the Governor has indicated to us, \$30 million. If we want to make substantial tax policy changes in this state, that is fine with me, then let's do it up front and openly and not in amendment form or not at this...in this special session. I guess I was one who did sign Senator McFarland's call for an additional special session to deal with the broader picture because I thought that that was the right path to take and if we want to argue doing away with farm exemptions for personal property, then let's do it at that time, but...and, at this time, I think LB 1 was designed not to tax agricultural property that it had received exemptions previously and I guess I wanted to retain that in place and I would be reluctant to vote for Senator Chambers' amendment. Senator Chambers, I would agree with you, I don't think your amendment has much of a chance, but I respect your ability to bring this issue before us. I'm hoping this is not the weak link in the chain that would take us down because I would then have to seriously consider not supporting LB 1 if this amendment is successful.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Dierks, please.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. President and members of the body, I would have to stand and rise in opposition to this amendment. I don't think there is probably a senator in here who has...whose district would be more affected than mine. I don't know how many irrigation, center pivot irrigation systems I have, but I'm sure it is in excess of 3,000. I, too, appreciate the dilemma that Senator Chambers has come to us with, but I really don't believe this is the place for us to take out our frustrations and so I would urge that you defeat this amendment. Thank you.