

rise in opposition to Senator Lamb's amendment. The issue is clear, it's who do you want to hurt, who do you want to hurt, and how do you want to, I guess, cripple the process. You could argue that it's an issue of it's easier to stall over here, but I'll tell you what, ladies and gentlemen, it's much easier to delay, to stall, to prevent when you're not paying any tax. It's very cost-effective to do it that way, to make sure that once the exemption is given it never goes away. We've seen time and time again...I've been criticized in the short tenure I've had as Chairman of the Revenue Committee, of being the nonrevenue Revenue Committee by various members of this body, whose names shall go unmentioned, Senator Schmit, but my predecessor was even better at it, and that's because exemptions, nobody wants to take away. We want to give them all the time, and I'm as guilty as anybody of that, depending on what the exemption might be. You go about it in the Lamb version, and what you do is you hurt subdivisions of government, and you hurt the local taxpayers, that's who you hurt. Now you may well say that local subdivisions of government deserve to be hurt to a certain degree, and I might agree to that, but not in this fashion. You know, we talk about allowing them the opportunity to develop budgets, giving them some stability, somewhat, and always being able to be assured that the long arm of the state is going to be there to help them out in tax policy. Ladies and gentlemen, if you adopt Senator Lamb's amendment, that's not guaranteed at all. And the only thing that you can count on, the only thing that you can guarantee is that property taxes are going to go up, because not only will you be getting pressure from those who get the exemptions extended to keep those exemptions, you're then going to see subdivisions come in and say, hey, now wait a minute, you put the lid in place, the lid has to go away; or you're going to have a lid proposal that three-fifths majority, super majority, whatever that amounts to at the local subdivision, is going to mean nothing, it's going to be an automatic. They're going to time and time again go ahead and say, look, you took away our base, we can't do anything else, you've left us no alternative, by not replacing the revenue, except to raise real estate taxes, homeowner taxes, agricultural taxes on their land. That's what you're going to do, if you adopt Senator Lamb's amendment. And that's, in essence, the ultimate effect, because the exemption is going to be that much harder to repeal as it currently exists, under this amendment, than if you take what I guess has become a compromise proposal on the part of Senator Warner. I prefer the way the bill is currently drafted, but I'm going to