

interest in having further than what they've already gotten in the last few years, they're tired of it. So what we need to do again is go back to the folks behind the glass, who I think, in some cases, have been quite irresponsible. As they push for the Lamb amendment, what they're saying is we don't want our exemptions taken away, we don't want to pay other taxes to make up the difference by having those exemptions, we just don't want to pay taxes, want somebody else to pay taxes. Well, those somebody else's out there are tired of it, they don't want to have the shift in taxes that we've had continue once again, as they're saying, here we go again. All right, who's not going to be paying taxes, and who is going to be paying higher taxes? Here we go again. I think it's about time to say no more to that. What we need to do is go forward with the bill as envisioned at this point, work on, again, in my view, the fundamental philosophy on taxes, a broader tax base is a better tax base, by and large. Some incentives are appropriate, some adjustments need to be made, but the narrowing of the tax base usually means, again, the idea that some are paying more taxes, while others are paying less or no taxes. Not a concept in the public interest. In addition, a more progressive tax is preferable to a more regressive tax, with flexibility to pay. And we've got to recognize impacts on that with the tax shifts that we're talking about. I'm not sure we know exactly how the tax burden shifts in terms of categories, in terms of ability to pay. A lot of study has to go into this...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...issue. A short-term solution is the answer, not a long-term solution fashioned without knowledge and facts, which is where we're at right now with this legislation. So, once again, I urge you to understand the feeling of the many people out there that are unhappy with the tax picture that we've faced in the last few years. Don't want to see the tax picture clouded any further, and do not want to see the sort of changes that Senator Lamb is talking about here with the exemptions staying on and no prospect of them being brought back into the tax picture. With that, again, I'd urge opposition to the Lamb amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I was going to pass on this turn to speak, but I need to respond to Senator