

You are going to end up with nothing. Nobody is going to want to pay the cost of this and no tax is going to be acceptable to anyone.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: Remember this, I mean, we are left with, what, 14, 15 days left in the session. We have got an issue before us that, again, I started out by saying there is a couple of different ways you can deal with it. One is address it like we are, walk through the amendments, and I have no problem doing that. The other is to do nothing and to allow real estate taxes to go up, allow local subdivisions to tighten their belts. We are moving closer and closer to that alternative, if we adopt Senator Lamb's amendment, because the house of cards will begin to fall.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Hall. The next speaker is Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I support Senator Lamb's amendment because I feel that when we have a surtax on depreciation and also a sales tax on energy, some of these people are getting a double whammy, like agriculture, business, and industries. And I know it is hard to find a solution to this problem, but I think we need to work away at these amendments and try to find a solution. Let me just talk about agriculture a little while, about the cost of diesel fuel. You folks know that I sell diesel fuel, sell a lot of diesel fuel to farmers, and as that price goes up, which it has this last year, as the price goes up, well, the sales tax on it goes up, too. The state sales tax is 5 percent. I believe it was just a year ago we was selling diesel fuel for 60 or 70 cents, or maybe 75, but this year it is quite a little higher because it has gone up and it hasn't come down as much as it has gone up. So we need to consider that, and some of these small farmers, it seems like, are just barely making it. I know in my district we have had several that have declared bankruptcy in the last six months or a year. Also we do a lot of irrigating in my area and especially if you have a dry year, and it looks like this year may be a little better, but last year was a very dry year and they used a lot of diesel fuel or electricity or propane or natural gas to irrigate, and adding another 5 percent onto that cost is just about going to be prohibitive, especially with the price of corn decreasing. So I just want to tell you