

that when we have those constituents that come up and say, do away with property tax, put it on sales and income, first, you have to understand you have the highest sales and income tax rate in the country, given our present base, and you could broaden the base a little bit, and when you really want to have that high of sales and income tax rates. And, two, do you understand that you're going to lose control over the way you do things? And in the end, yes, you may lose control over things, you do things, in the end, you may argue that we have a more efficient way of operating government, but you're not going to...

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR MOORE: ...only drive 10 miles to get a driver's license probably and maybe driving...depending on where you are, you may be driving a long ways. You're not going to be putting your kid on a school bus that's only going to travel for 15, 20 minutes. You're going to put him on a...him or her on a school bus that may travel a long time and may have to board them in the big, booming metropolis of Broken Bow or something like that because they won't have little schools out close by where you're child...where you're house is. And there is a down side. That's...I mean, because of that concern of the down side and because Senator Rogers and Senator Schmit did not address the down side, I'm not going to support this amendment even though, in a lot of ways, I like it as tax policy.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Elmer, did you wish to speak again? Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I rise in opposition to the amendment but, frankly, I like it. I like it in conceptual form because what it does is it gives us an opportunity to begin the process that we have, I think, delayed for too long and that's the process of dealing with the overall tax system. I have stated a number of times in the last year that it's been 25 years since we implemented sales and income tax in this state and it is time that we readdress our tax code. What Senator Schmit and Senator Rogers offer to us is, I think, an opportunity to debate that issue. It's...it clearly has its detractions in some areas but it, in other ways, is very attractive, especially if you look at it from a philosophical