

SENATOR MORRISSEY: The next speaker on the committee amendments is Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I support the committee amendments. As a member of the Revenue Committee, we heard a detailed explanation of it and I think it was very good. I think the discussion on the floor has been good today. Senator Landis talked about the pie, but I'd rather eat my pie, but nevertheless, it was a good discussion. Also Senator Conway's amendments, but, Senator Conway, I think the first amendment you had, if we would forget something or didn't have that definition quite right, well, then we'd have to go back to the people to get it changed so I think we can do that by statute and, hopefully, that we will. I was one of those people that wanted to strike inventory out of this because I didn't think that inventory needed to be in the constitutional amendment because I think that's the Legislature's job to define inventory. But getting back to the constitutional amendment as amended, or by the proposed amendment, I just felt it was too big a gamble not to go with the constitutional amendment and that's why I'm going to support it because if the Supreme Court rules on the case that is before them now, if they say that real estate cannot be taxed, then we have a monumental \$1.2 billion problem and you could see this afternoon or you could see the last week or maybe the last two weeks what a problem we've had in trying to find 100 million. It's just about impossible to do it and so I think this constitutional amendment, if the Legislature passes it and if the people approve it, I believe it's the right way to go and I certainly don't like to tamper with the Constitution any better than some of you others here, but I believe it is the right way to go because I just don't know what we would do if we'd have that 1.2 billion loss. How are we going to get this passed? Well, hopefully, we will adopt this amendment and then go ahead and advance the bill, and I want to commend Senator Hall in not trying to suspend the rules because I think we need to take time to work this through. And maybe after we advance this today, maybe we will think about it tonight or tomorrow and maybe it does need some more amending, I don't know, but at least it gives us a little more time. And it also gives some of the legal minds that we have in the state to go over it one more time or two more times. Also if the Legislature sees fit to pass it, and I hope they do, then it will be up to the senators here to go out to our districts and tell the story of why we need it, and why we supported it, and I think we can do that. And I think the people will listen and,