

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And the way this constitutional amendment is drafted anybody who would oppose it would have no problem going out. They could even misrepresent it, but they wouldn't have to misrepresent it, and say, what the Legislature is doing with this amendment is putting themselves in a position to tax you as they please, and even the courts will not be in a position to protect you, because the Constitution gave them that authority and they want to take everything from you. And then you go out there and say, trust me, believe me, when they don't believe legislators, anyway. It's not an easy row to hoe. The easiest thing is going to get 40 people in this Legislature to pass the thing because they are tired and they want to go home, just like the guy whose had a drink, about an hour ago, and it went right to his head, he's tired and he wants to go to bed. And that is what's going to determine the outcome, ultimately, of the vote...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...on 186.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Madam Chair, members of the body, first of all, when I objected to the call of the question I said that nobody in opposition had spoken against the bill. I think I can clarify that now, after Senator Chambers' last remarks. I no longer characterize him as neutral on the bill. I, first of all, I don't dismiss the gravity of the situation that is before us. I fully believe that the whole tax structure of our state is at risk. I don't think that necessarily means that we have to leap at whatever is thrown at us in the last 10 to 15 days of the session that purports to solve the problem. One point of clarification. Second point of clarification, haven't said this yet publicly on the floor. This is an issue I've wrestled with probably a lot longer than a lot of people did, because I introduced this idea, a year ago. Had a hearing in front of the Revenue Committee. I think two people bothered to show up, the Tax Research Commission showed up in opposition, and I guess that was it. None of the subdivisions were there, nobody was there. But I was thinking ever since we had the special session that maybe we're ultimately going to have to amend the Constitution, and I threw out that constitutional amendment, and it died. I resurrected it this year and distributed it to