

number of different counties. They take the whole value of the property statewide. They assess it and then we put a tax levy on it. It can be a different tax levy on those individuals when it relates to surcharge and depreciation than surcharge and depreciation for other individuals. I don't think there is any constitutional question at all. The only constitution, I guess, we have to question is our internal constitution on whether or not we have the stomach to do this. These are the people that have brought us to this point. And now they'll come back and say that, well, yes, but it's the exemptions as the Legislature created. Well, that's fine, well and good and probably partly true, but when push comes to shove it's like every other tax proposal, tax plan that we have had out there, they don't want to do it because they don't want to be responsible for their actions, in essence, they don't want to be responsible for any more than a portion that they feel everyone else should have to pay. And this is an amendment, more than any other amendment that's been offered, that will put the burden on the small guy and let the big guy off virtually scot-free. That's really what it does, just a plain and simple cut to the quick and that's what you get. You get a proposal that says, well, we want to spread it out to as many of the small people so we, at the top, have to pay that much less. They were able to do it on the income tax proposal and changed that to a surcharge on income so they could basically have it their way instead of the way the Legislature currently or at that time adopted the proposal. Now you've got the Chamber coming back and say, no, folks, you have to take it this way, we're spoon-feeding it to you this way. If you don't take this proposal, sorry, we're not on board. Well, ladies and gentlemen, I don't think that's a problem here. I think what you have is a good tax system that recognizes that there is a distinction between centrally assessed properties. And we can tax them different when it comes to surcharge on depreciation. There's not a case that I know of out there that deals with surcharge on depreciation as a tax.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: I mean, what basis are they going to go to court on? I don't understand it. I mean, I would be... I would like to see the attorneys for the centrally assessed companies make the arguments that, (a), it's economically responsible for them to fight this in court; and, (b), that they don't have a liability for it. I don't think it will happen. I think they're blowing in the wind and what you're going to see is a