

I won't wind up supporting this section. I am going to vote against it. In the event the Ashford amendment does not have 25 votes, I might throw up a green to let you know that there are areas of agreement that I am looking for, and let me remind you what areas that are there available for me to make agreement with other people; a nearly neutral system that accommodates agriculture, roughly along the lines of \$14 million, from a variety of revenue circumstances, among them the collection fee, the reduction of state aid or offsetting business and agribusiness taxes. With that, I just want to close by saying I will be opposing this amendment. I do support the general direction that we are taking in our discussions, and I congratulate Senator Ashford for stepping into the breach and trying to bring us to this kind of resolution.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Hall, you are next.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President and members, for the record, we are voting on the portion that deals with the exemptions for farm machinery and business equipment, thank you, Section 183 of the bill. The provision is, as I see it as 1120 was introduced, moves exactly in the opposite direction of where the state needs to be going. The arguments that others have made with regard to removing exemptions hold true for granting exemptions, I believe, at the ballot box. Folks will not tolerate additional exemptions. That is the message I keep hearing, that there are too many exemptions out there, that individuals aren't paying their fair share across the board, that I don't mind paying my taxes as along as the other guy is paying his. And what they see is a weighted scale that is weighted against them, it's not in their favor. Whether it be business taxes, whether it be income taxes, whether it be sales taxes, the folks at the bottom end have everything flowing their direction as it relates to tax policy in this state. This portion of the Ashford amendment, and I believe it is offered in good faith, continues to compound that problem, and it compounds it in a \$40 million way that I cannot support, I don't think the voters at the polls would support. They are going to say why should business, why should ag, whatever, agribusiness, why should business, because they are both business propositions, be exempt from sales tax for their equipment? When I buy, you know, bunk beds for the house, or when I buy a stove or a refrigerator for the house, I pay sales tax on it. When they buy a stove or refrigerator for their office, that is business equipment. It is exempt. When