

support the suspension of the rules?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Bohrke...Bolke, I did not...I will not...Bohrke, that's good. Senator Bohlke, I will not support the rule suspension at this point, simply because it's not germane and I would rather procedurally go the other way.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you. Members, I rise in support of the suspension of rules and maybe from a slightly different perspective than what we've heard before. There are a number of us that I have read and I believe have stated that when we would come to the Legislature we came with an open mind and we would listen to all proposals and give all proposals a fair chance. Senator Bernard-Stevens talked about the importance that the people have a chance to hear their voices heard. I feel that a suspension of the rules and a discussion and a full debate and discussion on Senator Johnson's amendment is one way to let a number of those people have their voices heard who believe that an exemption on the sales tax on farm equipment should be allowed. If we truly feel that all proposals should have an equal chance and be fully discussed and a chance to debate, then I feel that we should support a suspension of the rules. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would like to speak against the motion to suspend the rules because I do not believe it's appropriate to exempt farm equipment from the sales tax if that is the only action that we are taking. And I honestly feel that the way that I feel about this whole question has nothing to do with agriculture versus urban or rural versus urban. It has to do with what are the proper principles for taxation. If you exempt and the only thing you do is exempt the sales tax on farm equipment, then what you have basically done is simply shifted the argument from personal property taxes to sales taxes. In the area of personal property before this year, as you know, business equipment was taxed, farm equipment was not taxed and that was a sticking point with many people, including myself, because it was not perceived as fair. Even Senator Moore argued on this floor or admitted on this floor that he had a hard time justifying that. And now what we're doing is going from an area that was protected by the Constitution, personal property tax area, and