

as an agricultural producer with regard to this particular tax and the answer is to eliminate the tax for everybody. The answer is not to eliminate the tax for a portion of those...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...who pay the tax. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Before we go to the next speaker, I would like to introduce some guests of Senator Cudaback. We have 19 seniors from Shelton High School and their teachers. Would you folks please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being with us. The next speaker is Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I thought...I think we have gotten into the heart of the debate and a number of points have been made principally about the replacement revenue that is not identified in my amendment. I admit that I did not specifically earmark a particular amount of funds to replace lost revenue. I do not plan on letting the state just eat that 14 or 15 million dollars, as some may have suggested that that may be my motive. That is not my motive at all. I look at this issue as one of fairness, and more than anything else, as I have talked to my farmers and business people around the state, they've said, you know, Rod, we can't pass this cost along, we are the end of the line. We have to carry equipment because we need that equipment to farm with or to raise livestock or whatever it is. It's not something that we have as a luxury, it's a necessity, and we're going to have to pay twice now. And they just don't see that as being fair. So what I suggest to you is I would like an opportunity at least to suspend the rules and get to a vote on this amendment, but I fully realize that we're probably not going to get 30 votes today to do this, but, you know, the point is that we have to take a look at this important issue and I'm not one of those that's going to take the hard line. I'm going to take what I can get. Now if it's the Warner plan, I'll take that if that's the only plan out there. But I would prefer, obviously, the repeal of all sales tax on machinery, but if that fails, I plan on supporting the Warner amendment. I'm not going to take the hard line as some others might. It just seems to me that we have to do something in this area. I'm willing to try and work toward a compromise that everybody can live with. You know, yesterday, prior to this debate starting on the sales tax on