

straight and clean sales tax exemption and, at that time, move on to a lesser version of that in the compromise amendment that has been brought forward to us by many well-intentioned people. So, with that, once again I rise to support suspension of the rules and I think that would be the better part of valor for the body to do.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Ashford, you're next.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I stand in opposition to the motion and take this opportunity to give just a slight explanation of my position on this matter. I listened to Senator Beutler's explanation as to why he was concerned about the compromise and I would voice the same concerns. Last week we made an effort to try to argue that if we are going to exempt sales tax on farm machinery that it ought to be across the board, the theory being that when you place equipment into the stream of production that that transaction should not be taxed and that that transaction should not be taxed for agricultural equipment for the same reasons that it should not be taxed for business equipment. And I have the same problem that Senator Beutler has, going back to my district and explaining to large purchasers...or large equipment purchasers or smaller ones and telling them that...that their transactions or their purchases are not going to be exempt from the sales tax though large farm machinery is. And so I feel very strongly that, in supporting the compromise that Senator Withem and Senator Warner and others, and Senator Wehrbein, have brought to us that I am moving off a position that I think is very defensible economically, and that I am also agreeing to replacement revenue which includes revenues generated to a great extent from urban areas, and that, again, I am going to go back to my district and explain that this was a compromise and that everyone in this body, whether urban or rural or living in a smaller community or on a farm or wherever they may live, has to take a look at the total picture. I have a hard time...I understand the concern on the part of those senators who do not support the compromise and their concerns are legitimate. And Senator Schmit makes a great argument on that point. But I think that the point I want to make in conclusion is that those of us who are from urban areas who are agreeing to this compromise are doing so...approaching it as a compromise, not a victory. As I said, I guess, a couple months ago, making tax policy is not user friendly and deciding which tax plan to go