

I guess, as a last resort I'd have to do that. But the long-term future of my district is mixed in this discussion. The long-term ability of the small farmers to help support the small businesses in that district is vital to this discussion. The question of small farming operations,...

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: ...in the future of this state, is very much being debated here today or not. Will anyone be able to farm in the future, and if not...or will the small operations survive? If not, who will farm? And the fewer people get control of the most important product in the world, what will happen to the price of that very important product? And this is very long-term, down the road, very long-term look you have to take. But for me to repeal the uniformity clause and stand up here and say that's the only way we can solve this problem, I can't buy it anymore, I just cannot buy it. I'd urge opposition of anything that repeals the uniformity clause and says to be constitutional you have to repeal that fairness and uniformity clause to work.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. Senator Coordsen, you're next.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the body, I think we're poised on the verge of advancing a really great bill. Mercy, I'm so excited. Contains lots of good things. Picked out a...picked out a rural county. Currently the owners of agriculture property paying 82 percent of the nonmunicipal property tax in the county. According to the average of the Department of Revenue, or the legislative fiscal office, they're going to see a net increase in what they pay of 5 percent, bringing them up to about 86 percent, that's roughly 4 percent in pure values. If they don't buy anything we're going to impact them with a 1 and 1/4 percent sales tax on their fuel. If they have a bad year, can't buy anything, don't buy anything, don't make any money, we're going to get them a little more again. Then we're going to, quite probably, reduce the state income tax revenues by whatever amount it is that we increase the property...local property tax on those people. Bear in mind, these are going to be deductible expenses. Great bill. Thank you.