

adequate debate on this issue. We've had a lot of alternatives considered, a lot of alternatives have been voted down. LB 1063 has passed. That's the alternative that's out there now. And, as Senator Warner has said so many times, the other alternative left is you put it all back on. I think we're to that point now. No other alternatives. I think one of the key things for me in supporting the constitutional amendment is the fact that I think we're making a decision today here as to who controls tax policy in this state. Are we going to let the courts control it or are we going to control it? I think we've let the courts be in charge for the last couple of years. I think it's time that we provide the flexibility and the kind of tools necessary for us to take back control of tax policy in this state. LB 1063 is talked about as having all kinds of flaws. The opponents say that there are all kinds of problems with 1063. LB 1063 is not forever. LB 1063 is simply a statute that we put in place that can be changed. If we find problems, we can change those. It's not the destruction of agriculture. I've heard that on the floor a number of times. Agriculture doesn't die if LB 1063 goes into place. It simply does not happen. For those people who want to exempt all personal property, I think they need LR 219. I think that provides them with that flexibility to do that. It provides them with the flexibility to come back next year and say, yes, let's do exempt all personal property and it would be very, very clearly constitutional at that point if we would do that. I think one of the things that we have to realize that the public is watching us very closely on this. The attention has been focused on the Legislature as we deal with this issue. I think the reputation of the Legislature is on the line. The credibility of the Legislature is on the line. And, Senator Schmit, I must tell... I must tell you that I take a lot of offense at some of the remarks that you made on the floor of the Legislature this morning. There were no deals made on chairmanships. There were no votes traded on other issues. And for you to stand and accuse us all of that is wrong. To be on the losing side of an issue is one thing, but to accuse us of wrongdoing to get there is another. And I find that very, very offensive. I think we're to the point now where I think you need to think about the title that you have. It's called state senator. Now is not the time to be York senator, or Omaha senator, rural senator, urban senator, that's not the question now. Now is the time to be a state senator. Now is the time for statesmanship to prevail, and I think statesmanship prevails by us passing the constitutional amendment with 40 votes to put it on the ballot in May. If the voters decide to reject that,