

come in voluntarily and find that you have made an error, then the penalty is 10 percent, which also can be waived by the county board. And the only argument really here, from my viewpoint at least, is not that someone is going to be unfairly penalized for unintended violation because I would believe that in the vast majority of the cases the county boards would understand that, and most certainly if an individual came in voluntarily realizing that they had made an error, that would even, it would seem to me, increase the likelihood of an individual not having to pay the penalty. They would still have the interest, regardless, because that cannot be waived under existing statute. So I would still not support the amendment. I appreciate what Senator Schmit is trying to address but I also see it as an invitation for some to intend to defraud on the basis that they know that they will not have any penalty. They will still have the interest to pay which is substantial, there's no question about that, but the only enforcement mechanism you have other than that is the significant penalty that is assessed if you fail to voluntarily go in and make a correction, which obviously means the assessor has gone out and discovered that you, for whatever reason, did not properly file the amount...valuation of equipment that you had or you did not properly file the depreciable equipment as required by law and it was, obviously, an intent to defraud the tax otherwise required.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Schellpeper, you're next.

**SENATOR SCHELLPEPER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I rise to support this amendment. I think it's a very fair amendment. There is no way that the people are going to be able to get everything on the schedule if by the time that it passes or if it passes in the middle of May by the 1st of June. So I think it's a very fair amendment. It doesn't cost any money, it just kind of helps the people that are in business in this state that if you're not able to get it in by that time, because of the confusion that we have in the Legislature in our tax system, that at least it's a way for the property owners to not be unduly penalized. So I think Senator Schmit has brought us a very good amendment that's a very fair amendment. He's not asking for anything unreasonable here. I think it's just good business sense to do this for just this one year. He's not asking that we do it every year. I think if we didn't have all of the confusion that we currently have, it wouldn't be...we