

the bill is a section that provides specific constitutional exemptions for certain categories from ad valorem taxes. Right now in the bill the property of the state and household goods and charitable organization goods are exempt from taxation under the Constitution. What this amendment would do would be to exempt business inventory and to exempt feed, fertilizer and farm inventory, those two categories constitutionally by this amendment. The wording of those two exemptions is taking...is taken directly from the statutes of the State of Nebraska and it would be our intention that those exemptions would be interpreted in the same manner that the statutory provisions have been interpreted over the years. So, basically, we're putting into effect two categories of exemptions under the Constitution. There are several reasons, in my mind, to do that. First of all, it seems to me that when you have a couple of categories like this in which or with respect to which the opinion of this body and the people of the state as a whole, I think, is dramatically in favor of exemption, it makes some sense just as we have done with household goods to add those categories to the Constitution. If there are five senators in here who are willing to stand up and say they're in favor of a tax on inventories, in either category, I would be willing to withdraw the amendment. But I think this kind of amendment has the status or these categories have the same status as household goods have in terms of acceptability in the community. Secondly, I think it's important to add as much clarification as we can to the public when they go to vote on this issue. We all know that when we come in here next year we're not going to tax inventories in either category. Why not just tell the people that so that they know that if they give us the power to adjust personal property tax in whatever manner we see fit that we're not going to be fiddling around with inventory taxes. And I think making that statement in the Constitution is also very important in terms of economic development. You know, we're all talking about the instability we're...the image of instability that we're projecting out there to the business community and the community interested in development. Well, if there's one thing you could do to inject an element of stability, it would be to put into the Constitution the exemptions on inventories so that people knew that if you wanted to change those, it would be a little more difficult job than just coming to the Legislature for 25 votes. So that's the basic gist of the amendment and some of my reasons for being in favor of it. Senator Ashford, would you care to comment further at this time?