

whether you like it or not, is a deal breaker. If it goes you might as well adjourn and at least we can play golf this afternoon, because it's over.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Ashford, followed by Senators Lamb, Dierks, Bernard-Stevens, and Labeledz.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Madam President. I'm going to reserve some time for Senator Bernard-Stevens, maybe someone will call the question. But I do want to make a couple of points, very, very briefly. First of all, I can't vote for LR 1 because it allows the Legislature to create exemptions, and that...I'm not willing to do that. I think that's what's got us into the problem that we got into now. I'm just not going to agree to that. But I do believe, and the proposal I've had up for five days, I know it's not going to go anywhere, but it allows the Legislature to create credits, or to tax inventory at lower percentages of actual value, but it doesn't put the exemptions...it doesn't make...allow the Legislature to create the exemptions. Creating exemptions is what has gotten us into trouble, it's what has gotten us into trouble. And I don't...I just think it's very bad policy to do it again, after we know the trouble it's gotten us into in the past. And I think if the price that's got to be paid is to get rid of the uniformity clause to do it, I think that's bad policy. I just...So I can't vote for LR 1, unless, unless there is another way to do it so that the exemptions would not go away, but the Legislature, given the flexibility which it needs to deal with inventory, to create credits or to create the ability to tax at a percentage of actual value, that to me makes sense. It doesn't make sense to allow us to do exemptions again, that's...the people of the state don't want that. And I'm just not going to do that. I don't believe the people want that. But I would say, and even though it's very tempting therefore to vote for the 25-vote rule, I am not going to do that. I think Senator Lindsay and Senator Baack and Moore owe...we owe them some gratitude here. I think they've come up with what they perceive to be a good solution. The problem is, for me, is that even with the 30-vote rule, it still allows, with 30 votes, the creation of exemptions, and that's what I can't do, I can't do that. But I think...and I may be one of two or three in the end that can't. But I do think Senator Lindsay and Senator Moore, and Senator Baack, and others, and Senator Kristensen have given us something that's better than what we have. I will support it. I can't support LR 1. And, with that, I'd give the