

tax issue, we'll probably have a number of petitions that will be brought forth, and then we're going to have to decide how we're going to deal with them, whether we want to adopt this amendment that Senator Beutler has brought forth. I'm not going to support the amendment just simply because I think that it somehow would certainly not appear to me to be in the best interests of the public to again review what they have said is right. I think maybe Senator Schimek had an idea that might have been better to maybe...to discuss the issue prior to the circulation of the petition rather than wait until after all the names are gathered and then say, well, we don't think that's what the people want, so we're going to make changes. And the people who have done the work will have, I'm sure, a difficult time trying to understand that. So I won't support the amendment, but I will tell you that I think it's going to be terribly important for this body this year to deal with the issue of property taxes if we want to ward off certainly a number of petitions that will be brought in by the public demanding that something be done if we don't want to take it upon ourselves to do it. With that, I thank you very much.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Call the question.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: There's been a request to call the question. Do I see five hands? Do I see five hands? I see five hands. The question before you is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Please record.

CLERK: 8 ayes, 6 nays to cease debate, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Debate does not cease. Senator Chambers, your light is next.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, Senator Beutler does make an alluring offer. I had listened to some things Senator Witek said earlier about not trusting the people. Most will not acknowledge that, but that's true in my case. I don't trust the people to amend the Constitution. I think it is too important, too meaningful a document to leave it in the hands of the people when they can be swayed by whim, or when a special interest group can hire somebody to get a number of signatures, then carry on a publicity campaign and have the