

inputs, but rather the sales tax would fall at the retail end or the eventual consumer of the item. And policywise, of course, the reason for doing that is that you don't build up a sales tax each time there is a transaction built into the final price eventually that the consumer pays, but, unknowingly, they are paying several sales taxes or an accumulation of several sales taxes, becomes something other than a sales tax in that process. So that is the broad general concept, and in this case, it is limited to these veterinary medicines that only go for animals for food. If it is a nonfood animal, why the sales tax continues to be collected because, in those instances, at least the distinction is being drawn. I don't believe that this specific one leads to justification for others. I did have that concern on a couple of other bills that are still before us over on Final Reading. You will recall the discussion we had on the cement a few weeks ago now, and in that case, that was my first question as is yours today, what else is almost like this that next time we can anticipate legislation saying I am almost like whatever we did the year before, and, therefore, ought to be exempt as well. Been trying to develop some kind of a criteria or policy within the committee that you can answer no to those questions. This one, the committee is not in a majority, if you looked at the vote, a majority of them voted for it, but not all of us, and I had hesitancy, myself, initially, but, eventually, I came to the conclusion that, in fact, it was consistent with our previous policy that it was an input criteria, and, therefore, appropriately could be exempt. But you are absolutely right that, in fact, one of the reasons that some of the exemptions that come before us are indefinitely postponed, the bills are indefinitely postponed, is because you know you are going to automatically generate umpteen more almost like it the following year, and...but we tend to try to keep those exemptions as not occurring if it is at the consumer level.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, with respect to other exemptions that might be questioned or requested because they are input type exemptions, are there, in fact, a series of additional input type exemptions that will be coming down, or have we gotten...I know in the past, in past years, I have watched some of these consistent with the philosophy you've expressed, but how much...how many more years are we going to see these, or are we at the end of the line? I'm just preparing for the torture that is coming as our revenues are depleted...

SENATOR WARNER: Well, I...