

as the original amendment, Senator?

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, I think so.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, then in that case I don't think I am inclined to do it. (Laughter.)

SENATOR DIERKS: I see. Well, in that case then I'm not inclined to support the amendment, so, thank you.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I'm glad you're looking for a way, Senator. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Wesely, your light is next.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Madam President and members, as I've stated in the past, I think the effort for these tax exemptions leads us, I think, into a bigger and bigger and deeper hole in terms of revenue losses. And although I understand the desire and probably the good will and good reasoning behind this proposal, I rise in support of the Beutler amendment and in opposition to the bill. You know, there's a series of things that I think we need to think about and one of them is where do the tax exemptions end? Because it seems as though there's always some additional exemption that's necessary to compete with some other state. There's always that argument that Senator Dierks said that they can drive to Kansas and can drive someplace else. We're never going to be on an equal level playing field, we've got four or five states surrounding us, there's always going to be somebody there that's got an exemption we don't have. And what you do is you just do a circle and turn around and exempt this and exempt that and pretty soon you end up with a situation like we are nationally where the proposal is to go to a flat tax. Now for all of you who are of the Republican stripe, I think you might keep in mind what's being talked about nationally. After years of providing exemptions and filling the income tax with exemption after exemption, the corporate tax with exemption after exemption, the proposal now is to do away with that and go to a flat tax. Well, we have resisted over the years the efforts to do exemptions. We have, as a state, been pretty reluctant to do that but I must say in the last 20 years that attitude has changed, and it's changed and picked up speed and the depth of support is pretty obvious from what the votes have been so far