

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Question.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Question has been called. Are there four additional hands to Senator Jones? There are. Would you please vote on whether debate should cease or not. All those in favor of ceasing debate, vote yes, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? The question before the body is, shall debate now cease? It is a machine vote, not a voice vote. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 2 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Debate is ceased. Senator Beutler, you may close on your amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, just to remind you what the amendment does. On lines 10 and 11, it drops the words "insecticides and fungicides" and I am doing that on the theory that it doesn't...it shouldn't qualify under any of the operative principles that we've used. It shouldn't qualify as a component of the end product because it is simply an incredible stretch to try to say that that's a component of the product. It shouldn't qualify as a business input because that is not fair to a whole bunch of other business inputs that are not getting a tax exemption. And, finally, it shouldn't qualify under the category of border bleeding because there are a whole bunch of other products that also are subject to border bleeding...bleeding, and we don't recognize those. When the day comes that we are treating everything equally then I may well be willing to go along with this, assuming the tax source is replaced from one place or another. And maybe what we ought to be doing with these bills is simply...maybe the tack we ought to take is to ask the segment of the economy that is benefiting from these bills, whether it is a city business environment, or an agricultural sector, or the individual taxpayer sector, maybe we ought to, in each case where there is some kind of an exemption requested, put a provision in the bill that replaces the revenue from the same sector of the economy, and then see if all of those people who support that sector of the economy think the trade-off is worthwhile. But I really think that it's suspect to attempt to extend exemptions in this manner, and that the result of this kind of thing is simply a shifting of taxes from one taxpayer to another, and I guess that's fine, if most of your taxpayers benefit from the bill, but, to me, it's not a