

SPEAKER WITHEM: Amendment is not adopted. Next matter, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment is from Senator Beutler, it's AM1724, found on page 2426 of the Journal.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Clerk, I'd withdraw that one.

SPEAKER WITHEM: It is withdrawn. Next matter.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Senator Beutler would move to amend with AM2421. (Amendment may be found in the Journal on page 2422.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, AM2421 is...should be in your Journal on page 2422. And what this amendment does is very simple in terms of the concept, not altogether simple to understand. But basically it says this, the tax exemption that is being granted is roughly in the amount of \$1.6 million. All of the companies, to my knowledge, that are benefitting from this exemption are corporations. That means that the total corporate income tax contribution to state income tax revenues will decline. That means, as I understand it, that it is one more item that results in an incremental shift over to the individual taxpayer of the total tax burden. So what this amendment does is I went to the fiscal office and I asked them to simply adjust the corporate income tax to increase, to cover the \$1.6 million of revenue that's being lost. And that incremental increase in the corporate income tax is very, very small in terms of the percentages. It does almost nothing or perhaps changes by one state our relative position with respect to income tax rates. But it does this very important thing for the individual taxpayers of the state, you know they're always asking, why are our taxes always going up, why are our taxes always going up? Well, we know there are a whole number of reasons for that. But I think if you look historically as every session we grant one, or two, or three, or four exemptions, and this session we're going to do the same thing, what happens slowly over time is that more and more of the tax burden becomes shifted onto individuals. And what I'm saying with this amendment is let's not do that if we don't have to, let's keep, unless there is some policy reason being argued,