

May 31, 1995

LB 490
LR 3

you have questions, I will be glad to try and answer substantive ones. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Sorry, I got into a debate over there. Madam Chairman, members of the body, I would rise in support of the Bromm amendment. Did you pull it? It's still up here. Okay, I have concerns about this bill and I won't be voting for it. I didn't vote for LR 3CA to be on the ballot. In Douglas County, the concern that I have heard over and over again, they would like an easier avenue for appeals, that part appeals to these individuals, but they want their elected officials to be accountable to them, and they don't like pushing this off, and this is just what I've heard time and time again, pushing this off onto some other body, nonelected officials, who they don't feel will be accountable to them through the same, at least, line of accountability which is a direct line they feel as an elected official. So I put out a similar questionnaire to people in my district, and I would say it's running at least 75, maybe 80 percent in opposition to doing something like 490 suggests. So I know in my area I would like more time to talk to people, more time to just look over this idea, especially since our area is right now in such flux in Douglas County over the property issue and the tax issue. So I agree that I think it is a good thing to hold off, wait a longer period of time. The issue is on the ballot, it goes to a vote of the people. I think that will give them a time to become aware of it, and then I'll know then the actual numbers, other than just taking an informal vote, of how people feel about this, and they'll have a better understanding, possibly, of how this, if this issue does come to the ballot, and it's probably explained in the newspapers and other media sources, and I'll get a better fix on how people feel about having this type of nonelected board handling their tax issues. So I would like some time myself, within my district, and I believe the individuals that I've talked to within my district and received information from within my district would like a longer period of time, so I will be supporting Senator Bromm's amendment to give us that time that we need I think with the people in our districts to become more aware of this issue and definitely to see how the ballot issue comes out. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Warner.