

PRESIDENT ROBAK: No, Senator.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I'll pass then in that case.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Withem, to speak to the Beutler amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, Madam President and members of the body, I'm going to use this time to speak. I'm supportive of the Beutler amendment, will be voting in favor of it, I think. As opposed to the last one, Senator Beutler, where I think there may have been some concerns, that you were slowing us down, this doesn't appear to be doing that. It appears to me as just simply adding an additional step of analysis that makes a lot of sense. Would like to comment a little bit about the resolution. I guess I'm disagreeing with, obviously with Senator Chambers and with others who are saying that this resolution doesn't mean much. And I think people ought to take a look at what the resolution says. Because the resol...what the resolution says is we, as a Legislature, are not only going to do something about property taxes, that when we reach the fork in the road that we all know we're going to be to, that we are going to go in one direction as opposed to the other. That we are going to go in the direction of limiting spending, reorganizing local governments, shifting some available resources, but that we are not going to go in the direction that some people outside the body would like to move the state in, and that is we are not going to go in the direction of generalized tax increases and major tax shifts. Read the resolution. I think it very definitely points us in the first direction I described as opposed to the second. Now I have an amendment following that I do not support, I want to make it very clear at this point. I didn't want to adjourn here today without getting to that resolution and having people think that I'm promoting that. I offer this resolution as a way of trying to focus the Legislature's attention on the two different approaches that are before us. One approach is that of demanding more efficiencies in state government, demanding more efficiencies in local government, limiting our spending, slowing the rate of growth of government, and using that pot of money then that is freed up to relieve property taxes. The other approach that's being forced upon us by at least one of the resolutions that's being proposed on the outside and probably by two of them, is one of we are not