

Farm Bureau. And Senator Beutler posed the question to those individuals, okay, so you hand \$400 million over to the state and you go tell everybody that you're going to give them property tax relief. That doesn't mean the \$400 million in spending goes away. It's still there. You either have a choice at that time to cut it completely and do a \$400 million cut and have a real 35 percent reduction in your property tax rate, or you shift it and you raise spending. And that's, that's what I had to say about the petition drives out there. That's why they cannot be the solution. It's too much of a, of a cut to the property tax without any type of discussion on where it's going to go and what it's going to do. And that's really, I think, what we should have been talking about for years in this Legislature is that buildup of spending that's been increasing at the state level, at all the other levels, and I came in this body three years ago to tell you that the average family in the state of Nebraska, of which I am a member of, we are not wealthy, that we cannot afford everything that you're benevolently giving us. So all I'm asking you to do is adopt this amendment and really honestly admit that we have two choices, cut spending, control spending, or you people who want to keep spending, you're going to have to raise taxes to do it.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: And you're having a revolution going on out there, not only on the property tax issue, but on taxes in general. And it's not a rural, urban thing, although I do understand that there are some issues in the rural area of where the pinch might be just a little tighter, a little sooner out there, but I assure you the people in my urban area in Omaha are just as upset. I'm getting phone calls every single day, every meeting I go to is talking about the spending that's going on at all the government levels, that they can no longer afford. Businesses are talking about moving out of the state, families are talking about moving out of the state. This is a serious issue, we've got to get control of the spending and I will be supporting Senator Beutler's amendment because he's honest enough to admit that that's what we have to be doing. Thank you.

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

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, members of the Legislature,