

February 20, 1996 LB 1205

there that they would need to get started on it because it's going to be a long road down the line to get it all sold because I have, you know, 533,000 acres in my legislative district alone. So they really need to get started on, because this really is a tax issue. So, hopefully, that we can get past the amendment here and get moved on. So I am not going to be able to support this amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Jones. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I will support Senator Warner's amendment and even then I am not sure I'll support the bill. I have not been a fan of selling school land since the time I came here. These lands were put in place by our forefathers with the intention of providing funds for our children for the rainy day. If we sell that land, the rainy day is not going to be taken care of. Historically, and we have the figures I think to prove it. I haven't seen them yet today, but the money that was invested from the land that was sold back at the turn of the century has not done near as well for us as the land that we still own and is still in production has done for us. We retain a lot more money from the rental of the land and from the bonus...the bonus that's given at the time that they're...that this land is dealt with. I think that another point we should make is that this is...this is an organization, this land of board...board of lands, school lands, is one that is self-sufficient. There are no tax dollars going to it. It's all supported by...by the fee they get from renting the land and also from the bonuses given at the time that the land changes hands or is reoffered for lease. I have, in all honesty I have some people from my district who would like to see this land sold, and there's, I think, pretty close to 100,000 acres of school land in my district. In fact, there's a section on the north of my place, and one over on the west of us. We don't have to have...we don't use that land, it belongs to our neighbors, and we've never been interested in trying to take it away from them. I don't think that's what we're about, but I just...now I'd like to just ask you to proceed with caution. I have problems with our doing this. I see the printout that Senator Jones has passed around, with taxes lost, but I'm not sure I understand what that means. But I think that the school lands, many ranchers come to me and say, well, they don't get any taxes from that land. Well, they're not...they're not right. There is