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speaking, in place and can coerce people to obey its will through the application of force. Land is the foundation of this power, this force, this existence of the state.

SENATOR CROSBY: Time. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members. I rise in support of the amendment. I cosponsored it with Senator Withem because I, too, share his concern about the impact of this decision. In my view it's a very important issue, it's a very important decision, and is it one that we want to leave totally in the hands of bureaucracy? I think not. I think that we need to have more information than we have before us right now. Right now we're vaguely talking about a plan, a thought of trying to sell this land and hope that it will end up being a positive net gain for the people of the state. But we have nothing before us, do we? We have nothing in concrete, in black and white before us to make that judgment. We are simply, on a hope and a prayer, taking action on the history of our state, in a sense, with these educational lands. This is not a new issue. For those who have not been in the Legislature for a long time, it may seem like it. But for the years that I've been in the Legislature this is an issue that comes and goes and is constantly before us, and has been, over the years that this state has been in existence. It started back when we were first formed as a state and we did set aside these school lands, and then we ended up, as I understand it, in the 1920's, deciding to sell some of these lands. We did not sell all of them, we retained some of that land, and that's what's at issue today. But the question I ask you is, that land that was sold some years ago, some decades ago, that is now valuable property along the Platte River, in our major cities, do we not wish that we had some of that land back? And the answer is, yes, we do. It would be to our advantage and to our net gain, financially, to have retained that land and still have it as part of our portfolio of educational lands. And so the decision back then, which was made to sell lands, and now we're making the same sort of question and decision before us this year, and ultimately should we not learn from that decision and question very carefully whether or not we want to take this step? I think we should. I think we can look back and wonder whether or not that decision was right, back some years ago. And it will be years from now, maybe a century from now, people will look back in the