

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, I'm going to...I'm going to make some remarks here on this motion. I'm going to yield some time to Senator Warner and he can...I don't know what he's going to say. He can either stand up and agree with me or disagree with me, but what I just saw 25 members of this body do is pretty much shoot down LR 292 and I don't know how important it is to the rest of the property tax package. This is a constitutional amendment. It's going to take 30 votes. We have gone now from dealing with how we are going to affect all property in our state to looking at marking out special provisions for a particular portion of our economy. I came to this property tax debate this year with a willingness to support things that I have never supported before, have taken a lot of heat on. I came to the Legislature this year willing to support things like caps on education funding. Even though I have family members involved in education, I have children in the school, I'm willing to support that. Willing to listen to debate and argument on things like shifting to other tax sources, something particularly looking at broadening of the base I was never interested in doing before, because we were going to treat all property tax payers the same. What I see having just happened in LR 292CA... And I apologize, I should have given this speech earlier. I just assumed that we wouldn't do this, that we would not decide we need to up the ante for one segment of our economy by adopting that last amendment. I was shellshocked and I guess I shouldn't be. What I saw is the combination of some individuals who'd just as soon see the whole property tax package go down the drain anyway. If you count your votes you had a few of those folks helping support you. You saw some urban folks who thought that it doesn't impact upon you so you might as well just go ahead and support it, with the hard-core people who voted legitimately, as they always do on areas dealing with special tax advantages for people in production agriculture. But I believe very seriously right now if we don't reconsider this amendment, put LR 292 back to where it was before, that you put the whole property tax package in jeopardy. Senator Warner, you have the rest of my time to tell me...if I'm all wet you can certainly tell me that and we'll go ahead and leave. I'll withdraw this amendment.

SENATOR COORDSEN PRESIDING

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Warner, you have about seven minutes.