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SENATOR BYARS: Senator Wickersham, I think maybe for the benefit of the body, and I don't want to belabor the point, but I think it's extremely important that possibly at this point because of the detailed nature of the debate that you...that you back up a little bit and talk to this body about where this initiative came from. What was the driving force to bring us to the placing on the ballot and, obviously, where we're at today? I am having a feeling that the small airports of this state are being caught in a situation that really had nothing to do with them at the outset of this situation, and I'm quite concerned about that. So I yield my time to you and I hope you'll indulge me and other members to please take us back and give us some history lessons.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Wickersham, you have about two and a half minutes.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Two and a half minutes worth of history.

SENATOR BYARS: I give you my time.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, thank you, Senator. The issue has actually been around for a long, long time. If no one in this body has ever come...had a constituent come to them and say I don't think that government ought to be doing that, or if they're doing that, they ought to be on the same playing field that I am. I've got farm ground, I try to lease it out, I try to make some revenues off it. They're out there doing that. They don't have to pay taxes, and that isn't right. Or if it's a store or if it's an industrial building of some kind, whatever it is. We've all heard those kinds of arguments, and we heard those kinds of arguments in the Revenue Committee and it wasn't necessarily about airports. Airports seem to have been the subject of the most discussion today, but it wasn't about airports. Never was about airports in particular. It also had to do with property of various foundations and other enterprises that somehow get off the tax rolls when people don't think it's appropriate for them to be off the tax rolls. By the time it got to the Revenue Committee, however, it also became clear to us that there's another effect, and this is one that most people wouldn't think about, but it's the other point that I raised earlier, Senator, and I do appreciate the chance to talk about