

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 3, 2000

LB 1010

that there are some people out there who want to get this land at a bargain, this bill wouldn't even be before us.

SENATOR BAKER: Well, thank you, but I disagree wholeheartedly with that. These people, and I've had some people currently renting the land that say we don't want to have it sold because we can't afford to buy it. I have a couple of people out in the western end of the state like that. They're near retirement age. They don't want to buy it. But I've had actually one person say, tell that to me. But the people that are actually renting the land have no guarantee whatsoever they're going to buy it. And I have not had anyone approach me with the idea say let's get this sold as cheap as we can and not have a public auction and so on because I think a lot of people that are criticizing the bill have not had school land in their district obviously. They don't know the inner workings of this board and their administration. They haven't seen neighbors mad at neighbors out there at an auction because in this case they won't bid against each other for rent, a lease sale, and the finality of an auction they're going to bid. I can guarantee that. There just aren't any auctions. And another opportunity for the board is that the fair market or the market value is up to them. If they don't like it, they can go get an appraiser to revalue it and that's the minimum sale price. But the real one that points out the lack of need for this amendment is on Section 4 of the bill down here in line 6, actually it starts in line 4, the board shall determine, this is after someone, a person or entity requesting the tract of land be sold at public auction, shall file an agreement with the board to pay the appraised value or a higher value as a minimum opening bid for the land. Within 60 days, the board shall determine whether or not to offer the tract of land for sale at public auction with a minimum bid. That gives them the right to turn people down right there. The board, it says, shall determine whether or not to offer the tract of land for sale. That was a major concession on my part when we did that with Senator Wickersham, worked on that amendment. The board shall determine. They still have the option whether or not they want to sell. And if somebody like Ted Turner comes in where they have the land surrounded, they have the ability to say, no, you've paid \$200 an acre for this land that you have it surrounded because the market value was only \$150. They're going to tell Ted Turner's