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them to vote on the policy question concerned. And if we are not in session, then the same question is put to the Executive Board of the Legislature as being the next best representation of the Legislature when the Legislature is out of session. In fact, it is the authorized body to represent the Legislature when it's out of session. So I plead with you to take this seriously because this is us. This is policy. This is our decision. And to the extent that you hand it off to representatives who are as much executive branch as legislative branch, and which can act on policy matters without consulting with you, you are giving up power. And to the extent that you give up power in terms of how our sales tax is applied, how it's interpreted, how it's administered, what exemptions exist or don't exist, everything, this agreement can be...

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...amended to encompass everything that has to do with our sales tax. In fact, it's kind of an incredible thing that we're doing, if you stop and think about it, and we're driven to it because the federal government won't cooperate with us on the taxation question, and we're driven to it in this particularly hard time because we feel so sensitively the need for those additional revenues, and that's okay. We need to try to develop some sort of system for dealing with this, and I'm in favor of the bill, but I'm very much against handing over more authority to the executive branch and more authority to a governing body that we have no idea how it's going to react. We have no idea which people, what kinds of people other states will send to represent them on the governing body. We have no idea what the tax policy...

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Time has expired.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...of other states might be. Are the big states going to overwhelm us? Thank you.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Chair recognizes Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Members of