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FLOOR DEBATE

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going to say "at their leisure," because I don't think that government officials work at their leisure. I think that they do a hard job. But I think that they did need a little more window of time than trying to do it by 2004. I will remind you, the bill did not put a burden on the county officials initially. But I would support the committee amendment. And actually, I would have supported the Connealy amendment too. You know, when we passed LB 271, which was actually the fleshing out language of a constitutional amendment that was passed by the people, we actually did put some public property back on the rolls. And that was because they were not being used for a government purpose, a public purpose. And certainly, if there's properties out there that are not being used for a public purpose, we should be putting them on the tax rolls. So I do support Senator Brashear's viewpoint there. However, when they are being used for a legitimate public purpose and they have every right under our law to claim this exemption, then that's not the issue. The issue here is whether in fact, with this amendment, whether you want to ask the county assessors to put an actual value, or whether you want to use an assessment or... what should I say... an estimate by the tax-exempt entity themselves, as the original bill does. That's what the committee amendment does, and that's what you can decide here. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Landis, there are no further lights on. Did you wish to close on the committee amendments to LB 689?

SENATOR LANDIS: The value judgment inherent in the measure, I think, is on the bill itself. This amendment process simply allows the intended effect to be done as cheaply and as consistent with our existing practices as possible. I would ask for the adoption of the amendment, and then I think we will renew the discussion of the merits of the bill.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. The question before the body is adoption of the Revenue Committee amendments to LB 689. All in favor of the motion vote aye, opposed nay. We're voting on adoption of the committee amendments, offered by the Revenue Committee to LB 689. Have you all voted who care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.