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FLOOR DEBATE

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problem that would not exist if it were not for the mall and similar operations. I think churches, schools, all of the leeches on the body politic, should at least pay what they should in this fee system. If they don't pay taxes otherwise, they benefit from fire protection, police protection, street lights, snow removal, and they don't want to pay a nickel. And they don't want to pay anything to mitigate this problem. There is no way, if I can stop it, that a bill which has anything to do with the increase of property taxes on all of the people is going to pass this Legislature. It's not going to pass. And I have a final bit of advice to Senator Friend. If a bill that would implicate property taxes cannot receive my approval--and I'm making it me; I'm the boss here; not Bruce Springsteen, me, Ernie Chambers, the boss--I don't think those Bayers are going to cure the headache that you're going to get from that set of circumstances. But what we need to do as a Legislature is stop these special interest groups from bludgeoning these committees, these committee chairs, into bringing us bills that they have to get on the floor and say, I don't agree with this, this is not good, we had a better way, but the beat the stew out of us, so we had to do what they want us to do, and now we hope the rest of you will strip out your backbone and go along with this less than acceptable proposition. No, if the committees won't stand up, we as a Legislature must let these special interest groups know that they're going to hit a roadblock when they come out here. If the body will not do it collectively, then I again will be the one to stop it.

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And it should not fall to one person. We all know that the other, or alternative amendment that Senator Schrock talked about is unsatisfactory. The committee amendment is better, the committee amendment is more equitable, and the committee amendment is what we ought to accept. So when we get to a vote on this division, we ought to vote in favor of this division. Vote yes. That will retain the fee structure and not get us into the property tax increase. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Engel.