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FLOOR DEBATE

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know, you got to recapture the prior years. I think the greenbelting situation, in my opinion, creates more problems than what it's worth. I also have a major problem with value of ground, you know, making donations, and then it's not on the tax roll. I haven't got it totally figured out yet. But whenever ground like that is removed from the tax roll, it puts more of a burden on the people that still own property. It's taken off. There's an acreage here, an acreage there, 160 acres there, 200 acres there, that gets taken off of the tax roll. It's more of a burden on the other property owners. So I have a problem with tax-exempt properties to start with. And I also have a major problem with the greenbelt situation. So I just wanted to bring those comments up. And if Senator Raikes wants any more time, I'd gladly give him some.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes waives off. Senator Beutler, there are no more lights on. You're recognized to close on AM3094.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Let me be clear on what this does not do. This doesn't change ag valuations. It doesn't change commercial valuations. It doesn't change relationships between the two. It doesn't change the basic greenbelt law or the recapture structure, except in the one little narrow area of folks who are willing to donate land to the county or to the city or to the school district, for example. In that instance, they still have to pay the taxes all the way up through to the end. But that recapture portion, which was designed to take away the windfall that the owner would otherwise get when he sold the land for the very high value to commercial interest, that's not appropriate, in my opinion, when the land, instead of being sold for a very high value, is in fact being given away, and that in those few instances that exist when that comes about, it seems to me to make sense to allow the donation to occur, and in fact to encourage the donation to occur, by simply saying that with respect to the recapture portion of the tax, that that will not be applicable in this situation. So it's narrowly drawn. That's what it does. I think it would be helpful to all concerned. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. You've heard the