

Before I begin to explain this amendment, it is on page 1002, let me tell you that you have on your desk or should have on your desk a sheet of paper that indicates to you the number of agricultural acres in this state that are in K-12s as opposed to those Class I's that we're talking about to point out the fact of what Senator Schmit was talking about a little bit ago, that we're trying our best to make a system work to help the majority of all those people that are involved in agriculture in the future. Now, the amendment. The amendment before you says that the reorganization plans may include two things, may include a vote of the people as to whether or not they are going to have district or ward elections of the school board members. Number two, in a Class III district may include a provision that raises the number of the school board members from six to nine in an attempt to give people more representation. Now I want to point out to you that, and people have told me this and I know it's true, that there are provisions in the statutes right now that allow these things to happen, but part of that language is stricken in the amendment on page 1003 and what we're striking, that language that we're striking, I think if anybody would ask the constitutional question about it, it would be clearly unconstitutional because of the one man, one vote ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court of a few years back. This language that's in there uses population and valuation. Now quite frankly I wouldn't mind doing that, but I know the Supreme Court wouldn't let us do it. They have already said so. So that portion of the statutes that's there and could be used as a protection is clearly not able to be used. So I think we need to strike that and put in some language so that it can be used. Same thing is true with the vote. We strike a section of the statutes that allows it quite clearly, but it also says if you'll notice on page 1003, line 11 on the second, well I guess line 11 is the only line 11 there, that it says, "served by the school vote," and that's been determined to be everybody, everybody within the district. Now if we're going to put one thing in the statutes saying we want you to do it this way and then leave the other thing in saying, well, you can do it this other way as well, it's going to be...well, it will give the attorneys something to do. I really don't want to give the attorneys any more to do than they've already got. I think they've got plenty to do right now. So I would urge the adoption of this amendment because I think it's necessary to give the people as this bill, if it progresses, and as it's implemented, to give them the