

be offered in this situation. Nobody, by the way, has asked for this option that we know of. Nobody at the hearing said let's do this. Nobody has written me saying, by the way, what we need to do is build more high schools, Dave, that is what would take care of this problem. This option is cost-ineffective to a tremendous tune, and also burdens and threatens existing high schools that your kids are now going to. I object to the amendment and hope that it will be defeated.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hoagland, please.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: (Response inaudible.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: Okay. Senator Johnson, do you wish to close, please? Senator Rod Johnson, did you wish to close, please? Excuse me, Senator Smith just came on as I called that. Did you wish to speak about this amendment?

SENATOR SMITH: I would just like to make a short statement in support of Senator Johnson's amendment. I do represent a district which has a large Class VI school in that district. We had a meeting that was a county-wide meeting on Saturday, and had representatives of the different school classes that spoke on their stand. One of the things that was...not one of the...at one time but many times by the people that were there, including our superintendent of the Class III district which was Hastings, stated that this is an alternative that would help to solve the rural dilemma, allowing those people to retain local control and still providing quality education for the rural youths in our districts in the state. So I would like to go on record as supportive of Senator Johnson's amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Now I believe we are ready for your closing, Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members, I will conclude very quickly. I just want to reiterate what I said in my opening that quite frankly I feel this is an option that maybe no one will use. However there are areas of the state that I'm sure it might be a consideration at least. I just wanted to put that language back into the bill so that those people, if they want to have this choice of creating a Class VI district, they can do so. They are allowed to keep their local school sites open, they are allowed to keep