

Senator Wesely and I have agreed that both of us do not want to delay this bill and after I speak if somebody closes debate, that would be satisfactory with both of us, and Senator Wesely will close and then we will vote if that would meet your approval, Mr. President. Anyway, let's talk about equity. You know, let's talk about who is paying the tax. You know, we have \$18.3 million in a homestead exemption bill which has not at this point been funded and not in the Governor's budget, not in the Appropriations Committee budget. And so what happens if that 18.3 is not funded, that homestead exemption? That means that the people still get that exemption but the state does not fund it so the other property taxpayers in the county pick it up. That includes farmers. That includes business men and it does include the homeowners because the rate will have to go up to compensate for that \$3,000 exemption that we provided last year. I have distributed...and it should be on your desk, exactly what the bill does as far as dollars. This is a 15 percent rebate with an \$800 cap. \$55.5 million will go to residential according to the estimate of the fiscal analyst. \$33 million goes to agricultural property; 8.9 to commercial and industrial, with a total tax bill of \$97.4 million. Now this can still be funded by the one penny sales tax. Now why is this more fair, why is this a better proposition than a couple of the others? Well, we have already talked about caps. State aid to schools does not have a cap. That certainly benefits the big property taxpayer. And as an additional sugarcoated plum, I would recommend that if this bill does advance to Select File, that it sit there until Senator Remmers' 505 comes up and is debated on the floor. We will let LB 38 sit on Select File if it gets that far and debate 505 before we go further. We still have LB 712 which is a viable bill. It did not advance but it has not been killed. And so that is still there. So my statement in regard to the kill motion now is that this bill is a viable bill, it has attracted a lot of attention because of its...I think because of inherent fairness. It does not deserve to be killed. I would like an opportunity to attach the amendment which I have just described, which is a compromise and which actually compromises the bill farther than I would like to see it compromised. This may be the only thing that agriculture gets out of this Legislature this year, frankly. We talk about the Amendment 4 which will be implemented in this session but what we are talking about there is status quo. You know, we are not talking about any property tax relief.