

week. I think a number of you have probably made up your minds on whether or not we should simply repeal LB 809, whether we should defer it for a year or two, or whether we should simply not fund it this year, and require the counties and the other political subdivisions to fund it. Now I opposed LB 809 last year. I think that the kind of homestead exemption that is represented by LB 809 is really a paperwork recycling project that affords so little actual property tax relief that it is not worth the administrative costs associated with it. We have earlier this session passed a bill that would provide for major property tax relief in a meaningful way. I don't think throwing \$18 million at the problem in a way that adds considerable administrative costs at the county level and results in about \$75 in property tax savings to the voters while at the same time they have to pay a like amount of sales and income taxes is really the proper or appropriate way to deal with the issue. Now I think there is considerable sentiment in here for an outright repeal of LB 809 even though we have had a lot of lobbying I know yesterday and today in opposition to the repeal.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hoagland. (Gavel.) I want people to hear you if possible. Go ahead.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Thank you, Mr. President. I don't want to take a great deal of time on the issue because I think all of you have considered it and probably have made up your own minds. I would urge you to simply bite the bullet, to hold tough on this issue, and to go ahead and repeal the homestead exemption, this relatively minuscule homestead exemption program that we have which I don't think does very much and which will clear the way for more meaningful efforts in other areas. So with that, I would ask the adoption of this amendment which would convert LB 727 into a bill which will simply repeal LB 809 and relieve the counties of any obligation they may have this year to honor the program. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President, members of the body, I stand not so much to urge other members to oppose this motion but to let you know that I am planning on opposing it. I know we are in a tight economic situation. One of the things I notice that happens whenever we are in tight economic