

need a hammer for the study, I don't think that's a very good argument. I think the Legislature is responsible for the study, it's our responsibility to see that we get a good study and then we can address the situation whether or not we should allow some to opt out. I think it would be a serious mistake to pass this legislation.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. President and colleagues, I support Senator Hartnett's amendment and I would encourage you to read it. Senator Hartnett distributed it to us and I think it's only a page long and it really makes sense just to look at the thing because you'll see when you read the amendment all it does is give the local school boards, the locally elected school board members, the option of voting to take their school district out of an ESU if they feel it's in the best interests of their property taxpayers and in the best interests of their pupils. Now, it seems to me that time after time after time in this Legislature we make decisions that are really properly left to these locally elected officials. I don't know why we need to preempt their authority to make decisions that are in the best interests for their taxpayers and their pupils. All this does is delegate down to the school boards authority we probably never should have taken away from them. In the case of the Westside school district that covers about half of my legislative district, it is clearly, I think, in the best interests of that district to take themselves out of the ESU, but, in any event, I'm not going to try and make that decision for them. I'm simply going to support a proposal that will give them the ability to do that if they choose. I really don't think we can argue with that. They have been independently elected by their constituents. Let's let them make these decisions. I don't know why we have to make these decisions for them in the Legislature. So, I'm going to support the Hartnett amendment and I would ask the rest of you to do the same. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Question.

PRESIDENT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I don't see five hands. I do now. I'll put the question to you, shall the debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. The motion is to cease debate on the motion