

our hearts are probably in the right place. The trouble with this is, and I think Senator Will expresses it, Senator Hall expresses it, is that it's pretty tough to stand up and talk against that because it makes some sense. Ultimately, that is what the Legislature would like to do, but the Legislature doesn't have the nerve to come out and say, let's give us all the power to do it. When the Governor's office brought this constitutional amendment to me, the first thing I said to him was, you know, what I'd really like to do is just take out the uniform and proportionate clause of the whole thing. And that's my first reaction, because that would eliminate a lot of my problems. The problem becomes, and maybe I trust this Legislature, and I trust the members in here, but I'm not so sure about the people that are going to replace us. And ultimately what we could do, if we pass this amendment with that little addition onto it, is we could pass a law that would also allow us and say, Department of Revenue, go out and raise us the money that we need to operate. It's a lot easier that way, because then we can blame the Department of Revenue for raising the taxes, we can blame the Department of Revenue for an unfair tax system, and all we have to do is spend it, and it's a lot easier that way. Senator Schmit's amendment is probably what we're after to do, except you can't do it. You can't do it because you've got to have some restrictions. You need some uniformity, at least in terms of a system you're going to tax. And this probably hones the whole point down, is...the reason that I like this amendment is because the Legislature will be able to remove the entire system of personal property taxation. I'll bet...probably, Senator Lynch, I don't know, Senator Lynch, but I would guess that you might want to put all of it back on, or somebody would. And the key is that it allows us to do that with the personal property tax, because the personal property tax is where the real battle lines are. You either want it all on, or you want it all off. I happen to think personal property tax is not a very good system of taxation. Don't think it's particularly fair, because the people who are legitimate payers, who come in and assess themselves and put out accurate values are penalized because of the people who have the idea that, well, they'll never know, I won't assess myself, or it's hard to enforce. I don't like the system of personal property tax, other senators may like it. The key is that, as a Legislature, you're going to have a flexibility...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.