

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: My principal concern with the adoption of Amendment 1, as we have it here before us today, is that Senator Chambers has proposed an amendment which would add two words to this amendment. I am not an expert on the greenbelt statutes. But I know that there are several different interpretations that can be, in fact, involved. And I would suggest that if this amendment is adopted that it would drastically narrow the applicability of the greenbelt statutes for agricultural land as it pertained to taxation purposes, because as the pressures from people in the urban areas increase, the demand for the utilization of the property in a manner other than for agricultural purposes also increases. It does not mean that the basic utilization...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...of the land is not still for agricultural purposes, but it does mean that it might be used in an additional way. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Warner, you're next.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'd probably rise to oppose the amendment on the basis of two things. One, it's probably not needed; but, secondly, it will add another indecision, perhaps, indecisiveness in the Constitution, a particular issue that has not been before us, as I understand, that's in the bill that is before us, but has not been raised as a question. Based upon the use of the word "exclusive" in other areas relative to taxation, there is a case of longstanding which the Supreme Court has defined the word "exclusive" to mean primary, and that was in those areas dealing with the exemption of education, charitable or religious purposes. So there is a longstanding position, which obviously could be changed, where the word "exclusively" was interpreted by the courts to be primary. But that is not the basis there. Currently the implementation, and it's been that way ever since it was implemented, of this constitutional amendment does not allow any property of an agricultural nature to qualify for any different kind of a tax, other than its full value, unless it is zoned agriculture. And if you have property that is being used for commercial purposes, and the zoning has been changed to