

valued as agricultural land, and there was no incentive not to hold land until it was worth more. But the zoning could have been changed, and then it would very probably be no longer available for agricultural valuation, and that would encourage...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR WARNER: ...it's proper development. So I would be opposed to the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Warner. Next speaker is Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. Speaker, and members, I'd like to ask, I guess, first of all a brief answer, Senator Chambers, are you aware of any abuse of this at this present time, that you're referring to?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No, I don't have any specific examples in mind that are occurring now.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay, thank you. I, too, would oppose it. It's because I don't really...I haven't investigated any of this. But I don't...would know of any abuse of this at this particular time, because some of what...I think what Senator Warner is saying is true, that most county boards, we had some greenbelt in our case. Normally you're going to switch it, as fast as you can, to a higher valuation, either by parcel or whatever. So I'm not clear as to what advantage this would have, because I think the via zoning and use of the...getting a higher valuations, most local government entities are going to be watching out for this anyway, and if there is any abuse that they will be doing this. I'm not aware of any areas across the state. I understand greenbelt really isn't used widely, except perhaps in Lancaster and Douglas County, some in our county, but not as much as you might think, especially in the last few years where we haven't had the aggressive development going on on the edge of towns. So I guess I'm really not aware of where this abuse is, because I think local entities are watching this carefully and are usually wanting to move up the valuation of that local property as fast as they possibly can, and are not going to allow this to happen, unless the ground is now being