

always advocated using some portion at least of market value as a basis for taxing property. And I still believe that in the long run, had we done that, even though we have problems with under reporting of property, in the long run that probably would have been a better way to go. And I simply need to state that for the record. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President. I would, of course, have to oppose the amendment submitted by Senator Withem, unless we are simply to exempt from taxation all personal property. And that was an issue that we discussed at great length in this body in 1991 and in 1992, and failed to find any means for doing that. We did in 1992, however, provide a system whereby farm machinery and equipment would have the sales tax rebated. And, intentionally or not, we also devised a system so that the sales tax on depreciable repairs or parts for farm machinery and equipment also applied, and that's all this amendment is about. It isn't an attempt to revisit the personal property tax issue, I don't think we're ready for that. All it is is a simple attempt to bring us back to where we started out in 1063 in 1992, when we thought we had a mechanism for solving the personal property tax crisis. And I'd thought we'd hashed all that out at that time, and all the rationales had been thoroughly aired and we all understood what we were doing. I thought we agreed on, at least a majority of us agreed on what we were doing. But I guess if we have to revisit all of that, through the Withem amendment, we'll just chew up a little bit more time here today than what we already seem inclined to do. But I'm not in favor of doing that, and that's not the reason I brought the amendment. I brought the amendment simply to address what I saw as perhaps an inadvertent change of policy. I don't know whether Senator Withem knew it, I don't know whether anyone else knew that we changed when we adopted LB 1 in the second special session. But certainly now that we know that we changed, I see no reason not to go back and do the right thing, what we should have done with LB 1 in the second special session.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Chairman and members of the body, I rise to oppose this here amendment because I think all we're trying to do here today is trying to fix it back like 1063 was, and that's