

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, question of Senator Labeledz, if she would yield. Senator Labeledz, how many counties would Senator Lewis' amendment affect in terms of the reappraisals?

SENATOR LABEDZ: I'm sure I don't know how many have completed their re-evaluation. But I'm sure Senator Lewis knows.

SENATOR KOCH: You don't know how many have completed and officially certified it?

SENATOR LABEDZ: No, I do not know. This is Senator Lewis' amendment. I'm sure he knows.

SENATOR KOCH: Well do you realize what the fiscal impact is if Senator Lewis' amendment is adopted?

SENATOR LABEDZ: No, he has not given me any.

SENATOR KOCH: Then why do you oppose the amendment?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Because it will be an additional expense.

SENATOR KOCH: But those counties who have undergone a re-appraisal, and those citizens who live therein, and the appraisal has been certified, why shouldn't they be given an exemption that would be somewhat equal in terms of the new appraisal which has been assessed to them?

SENATOR LABEDZ: But I'm sure those counties who have been reappraised, their mill levy hasn't been cut down accordingly, have they?

SENATOR KOCH: When was Douglas County last reappraised officially?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Do you know whether the counties that have been re-evaluated have cut down their mill levy in any amount?

SENATOR KOCH: Well, historically, we have been so long as we have done this. I can't remember that far back.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Well thank you.

SENATOR KOCH: I rise to support Senator Lewis' amendment because there are certain counties that have taken the action that they should have under law and under Constitution. If, indeed, we're going to treat homestead exemption with a degree of equity for all people, then certainly we should give Senator Lewis' amendment some serious consideration. You know, as well as I do, that the state is presently in a state of chaos as we speak to the issue of equalization, appraisals and re-evaluations. Right now the counties are trying to meet a deadline, but most of them will not. Therefore, Senator Labeledz's fear of LB 407 being maintained on General File might be the fairest and best thing for us to do until such time as the resolution committee, treating equalization and property appraisals, has met and tried to bring about some kind of a solution to the issue, other than trying to rely on LB 131 which we passed last year. Therefore, I support Senator Lewis' amendment. I think it's only fair. It's right for those counties who have proceeded to try to follow law.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Chair recognizes Senator Keyes.