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LB 305

close on your amendment to the Maxwell amendment.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I'm kind of in a quandary here whether or not to let the amendment go forward or to pull it. I listened to Senator Beutler and Senator Price and Senator Jones, and, you know, they raised some good points as to the impact that this might have on small schools. And I certainly...while I think that it's appropriate that when school districts are looking to the Legislature for more money, that I think it is appropriate that we ask for something in return. And that something in return is efficiencies. I think this is a legitimate idea. But I am concerned, as Senator Redfield mentioned, that we should maybe do this in a different manner. She had mentioned some ratio quotient to make sure that we're doing this in an effective manner, an efficient way as well. I think this idea is...I didn't realize that Senator Lynch had recommended this in the past. And if Senator Wickersham thinks this is a dumb idea, why, that's up to him. But I do think that efficiency is very important. When we spend that kind of money on education, I think that it's only fair for the Legislature and the people of Nebraska, the taxpayers, to ask for some efficiencies in return. However, I do not want to impact small school districts in a way that...in a negative way. And so I am going to withdraw this amendment. But this is something that I intend to pursue again in the future. And perhaps I'll work with Senator Redfield or some others who have some additional ideas on this. With that, Mr. Speaker...or, Mr. Clerk, I'd withdraw this amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, next amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have, Senator Bourne, AM2074. (Legislative Journal page 2102.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bourne, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. This amendment...you might think it's contradictory to the one that we just talked about. This one would move energy costs paid for by local schools in excess of the basic allowable growth rate,