

in my mind at least, of levies changing and affecting that equalization formula. And so it's one of those things where I, obviously, look at the other four tech colleges. They are well below nine already, but I have a particular problem with LB 1050 and I think we should make this decision absent of a lawsuit. If it's good policy, then we should come back and discuss it and do that. But I don't think that lawsuit necessarily is the hammer that makes us do this automatically and I certainly feel the Legislature should scrutinize this type of move a great deal, because, obviously, you're raising the authority for property taxes...we all know the property taxes are a problem. We also know the technical community colleges take merely a sliver of that property tax pie, but you're granting additional authority. I guess that concerns me and with the action that we took last week on changing an equalization formula that will eventually get more money to Mid-Plains and Western, I think we have addressed the problem partially, at least. And I guess my decision on 1050, I'm going to be voting no this morning because the lawsuit doesn't convince me. The threat of a lawsuit doesn't convince me that I need to deviate from my normal policy of being tightfisted when it comes to spending property tax dollars and granting additional authority to levy property tax dollars. So I would urge a red vote on LB 1050.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Crosby, please, followed by Senators Dierks, Nelson and Weihing.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, it is a pleasure and a privilege to support this bill, LB 1050. I voted to have it come out of committee and I listened very carefully to all the testimony having to do with LB 845 and LB 143 too, because one of the things that impressed me about this whole question and discussion is that all of the community colleges across the state agreed that this needed to be done. And, as far as the hammer that Senator Moore mentions, I don't feel the hammer is the lawsuit nor anything else involved in trying to figure out how to equalize the levy. What I think the hammer is, what we talk about all the time, I hear everyone of you say something about this at least once a week, and especially in the education hearings, is the accessibility of education in every nook and cranny of Nebraska. I have been in every corner of this state. I didn't enter in the earlier discussion over semantics or what we're going to call it, but here is what we're talking about is accessibility to education for every student, no matter what age that student might be, in every area of our