

SENATOR WEIHING: No, no, I...you don't think it would have been?

SENATOR MOORE: I don't know, I wasn't here when we did that either.

SENATOR WEIHING: Haven't we had a little bit of a problem with our property tax evaluation the past year?

SENATOR MOORE: Very much so, yes.

SENATOR WEIHING: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Moore. This is a differential. What was passed by this body stated that an area that was created by this body having a population of less than 150,000 would be able to tax more than those who have a greater population than 150,000. We have an inequality clause that comes in. The western Nebraska people, inclusive of North Platte when I'm speaking of this, the institutions at North Platte, in order to have what they feel as a minimum education in their community colleges have been willing and did and do pay more per property tax, on property tax, than the other areas, but the Constitution rules that as wrong and that is what this suit is about. And, with that, I cease my comments. There is this inequality that exists. It's not going to go away. It is there, it is real. The people of western Nebraska have been willing to pay not only their fair share but beyond to be certain that the people of their areas do have that education available.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Weihing. Senator Elmer, please.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. President. I'm proud to be a co-sponsor of this particular piece of legislation. It's something that's absolutely necessary if we're going to avoid what has commonly been referred to as the rebate back to taxpayers from this lawsuit. I know that Mid-Plains and I'm sure that western cannot afford to continue their program, to continue their services to the communities if this particular lawsuit is successful. It's much like the problem we faced in the special session. Uniformity needs to be established across the state and this would do that. Thank you.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Hefner,