

we're looking at, now think about it, now if LB...if there wasn't a lawsuit out there and the tech colleges came in here and asked for a, you know, an increase from nine to 11, we would have a battle royal in here, we'd fight about it and say, should we give additional...should we give...should we spend additional property tax property dollars? We'd sit here and fight. We'd have probably, you know, a close vote up there. For whatever reason, because a few years back we passed a bill specifically to deal with Western and Mid-Plains, gave them some authority and now it just so happens there's a constitutional problem and the only way...one of the ways, not the only way to solve it, one of the ways to solve it that's been brought to us, at least, is to, well, we have a problem now, let's raise the other four. Well, I'm certainly not accusing anyone of backdooring and I know this was brought to us in good faith but you couldn't have planned a better way to get around some fierce debate. Now, all of a sudden, you have to do it. Everybody, at least today, seems to be saying, let's just do this. My problem is simply this, and I don't think you just casually hand out additional taxing authority to people. We don't normally do that. I don't think because of the lawsuit is a reason to just roll over and play dead and do this. I think we need to very much scrutinize whether or not we need to give these additional authority to the technical community colleges and there is another way you could solve the problem. The other way you could solve the problem is take away the special permission we gave Mid-Plains and Western, you take...bring them back down to nine and give additional money through an equalization formula that we passed last year to get more money out there. You could solve the problem that way. Now Senator Crosby and Senator Hefner and Senator Elmer have stated what a grand deal it was that all the tech colleges agreed on this. Well, why wouldn't they? They get additional taxing authority, yes, they agree on it. The feat of accomplishment was the fact that they agreed on the distribution formula of LB 143. Now that was a little different. There they were giving up some money. But, obviously, they agree on this, they get more additional taxing authority this way, and so that's really not a grand deal and a great feat the tech colleges agreed on something because they're all agreeing on something that will give them some additional taxing authority. I mean, as I said, I'm voting no. The world doesn't stop if this bill passes. You solve the problem. But I just simply think the Legislature should shift down a few gears, look at this as a policy. Do we want to give additional taxing authority to the tech colleges or do we want to pump additional