

school districts are Millard North and my own, Lincoln Public Schools.

SENATOR ABOUD: Were both of those school districts in favor of this amendment?

SENATOR LANDIS: I talked last to a representative of Millard North about a week ago and, yes, they were in favor of this kind of a concept. The language that was drafted for that memo is based on the cost factors, I believe, in Bellevue as a matter of fact. So, I think it's reasonable to say that there is knowledge of and support for in concept, the language from Millard North, from Bellevue and specifically from Lincoln.

SENATOR ABOUD: You mean Millard Public Schools?

SENATOR LANDIS: Pardon me. Yes, Millard Public Schools.

SENATOR ABOUD: Okay, thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem, please, followed by Senator Schimek and Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, this is one of those measures that is tough for me because in general I think most of you would recognize historically I am not an advocate of lids under any circumstances, very limited circumstances and this bill is one of those limited circumstances. Also one of the districts that is mentioned in the handout is, in fact, my district, Papillion-LaVista School District. But I'm probably not going to vote for this amendment. Let me give you a couple of reasons why, one of them a philosophical reason, that the commission feels, felt that it was dealing with growth already in the bill. I know Senator Landis talks about unique circumstances when new buildings are opened, but we are...we felt like, in the bill, we dealt with growth by allowing school districts to project their increased numbers of students and used that increased budgetary authority for the growth that they do, in fact have. I understand the rationale between filling up an empty desk in a classroom versus building a new classroom for them, but building funds are exempted. Let me also tell you a very practical political rationale. Lincoln Public Schools wanted basically two things from us. One, they wanted their own tier. Once we start setting up the tier system we start unraveling the whole process. Senator Landis I think was very