

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. As Senator Hall indicated, I was one of the senators who had one of the competing bills in the Revenue Committee. My bill said that you just determine straight market value, and then you give a 25 percent deduction, and that you do away with the complicated formulas that we've discussed this morning and so on. The Revenue Committee, I believe, has done a tremendous amount of work in this area. I think they've given great attention to it. I am willing to live and accept the amendments that the Revenue Committee has come out. Well, my bill, I would not push it further. I would not attempt to put it onto the floor or do anything like that. However, I think with these amendments I think there are some questions that I have. And, Senator Landis, if you would please answer me a few questions about this, if you would. The first is Senator Hall outlined for us, and you also outlined, some of the various adjustments that will be made. But also in the committee amendments, back on the second page of the committee amendments, it talks about the county board of equalizations and their ability to increase or decrease by percentage of subclasses. I think it's important for the body to understand, and when they talk to their county boards, what this amendment will do, because this is a change. It's not a dramatic change in terms of overall structure and authority, but it does allow them some discretionary decision making processes within subclasses. And could you address that for me?

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you. And that's a very perceptive question to ask. Let me try to address it. Long ago, and I mean by that long ago six, seven years ago and then beyond, counties moved entire classes of land and entire sections of their valuation base up or down, oftentimes in a bidding war with counties that were adjacent to them. They would move all agricultural land up, down, around, if they needed to.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: In effect, what they did was they determined what they thought the value ought to be,...

SENATOR LANDIS: That's right.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...regardless of what somebody in Lincoln said, or what some manual said.

SENATOR LANDIS: That's right. And then they would, in some cases, when the Revenue Department wanted to take them on, they