

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President. Maybe I...Madam President, for the benefit of the members, you could say, ding or dong or something and kind of get us into a routine for voting. That'd be helpful. One of the things that Senator Wehrbein brought up was the...the levy and the taxing limits and, just so the record is clear, that there are a couple of different procedures that these agriculture societies use to raise revenue with, and one of them, if you have population between 4,000 people and 60,000 people, they shall...that's not a discretionary or administrative duty. They shall levy to raise so much taxes...we'll raise \$10,000. That's the limit that most agriculture societies in the state...it's somewhat less if you have a county with lower than 4,000 inhabitants into it. There's also an additional levy, then, that they can come into and that's only 8/10 of 1 cent. So that's a very small increase. And I think you'll see more using that because \$10,000 today doesn't go very far for an agriculture society. That is in addition to the capital construction. So there's a third levy that they may levy, and that says the county board of any county may level...levy an additional tax. I...I believe that to be discretionary or...and say that they can do that. However, as a practical matter, one of the amendments that Senator Rogers put in here with the committee amendments is that you can only get capital construction up to what you need. And so you can't build up a fund and then later just spend it whenever you get enough money in there, and I think that's a real good part of the...the committee's amendment, is that you can't allow them to build up that huge fund. They can only get as much as they really need to carry out their procedures, from that point of view. The other good thing that the bill does have into it is it makes the county ag societies subject...well and the county fair boards too, where appropriate, subject to the open records and management act and I think that that's a very important procedure for them to keep their books...to keep those records available and to protect them for future. There are certainly agriculture societies out there who don't have very good books...maybe don't have any books at all, but don't do anything to protect them. And so those...those records could be lost, destroyed, or other things. The law really brings it into...to as close as you can with the county procedure. The final point I would make also is in terms of audit. Not every county is audited every year. This does not mandate an additional cost or audit every year. It just says that if the county is audited, or they're subject to an audit, that they can