

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Madam President and members. Well, I would like to go back to the conversation I had with Senator Warner earlier this morning in regard to the reduction in the state aid to counties and I do have his sheet which he circulated in regard to that reduction, and so as I see it the agricultural counties will pick up most of that \$3.5 million. That is pretty much an agricultural contribution. For example, we see that Banner County, which is a very rural county, will lose \$16,000 in state aid out of the \$21,000 they get. See, they lose something like, what, three-fourths of their state aid and, of course, that will have to be made up by what is primarily the agricultural sector. Then you take counties that are primarily urban such as Douglas County, Douglas County loses \$14,000 out of state aid of 4.5 million. So you see it is a very tiny amount of state aid that is lost in the urban counties and that is because of the distribution formula for this negative \$3.5 million in state aid. So as I look at the total picture here, also using this sheet that was distributed in regard to where the money comes from to keep the state whole on this thing, number one up there is the sales tax on agricultural energy of \$4.5 million. That is strictly, of course, an agricultural bill. Agriculture pays all of that. And then you have the sales tax collection. That is not, that is not. That's the part of it that is not contributed to significantly by agriculture. But then dropping down to the next one, reduction in state aid of \$3.5 million. Now that 3.5 million is not totally made up by agriculture but the majority of it is. Then they combine that with the \$2.9 million, the one cent reduction of this five cent tax that we don't get back, agriculture does not get back so you add those up, it's something like it looks to me like about close to \$10 million of agricultural contribution toward this \$15 million problem. So I say it's not worth it. Let's just, if this is what the compromise is going to be, let's just keep what we have and pay the nickel and be done with it. I'm not going to be able to defend to my farmer neighbors the fact that they have to file for this rebate. They're going to say, well, why do I have to pay it in the first place and then file for a rebate. You know, we have...I'm sure there is a better system. If we're going to go for this sort of thing, there is a better system than having the rebate, that you don't pay it in the first place. You know on gasoline we don't pay the tax on gasoline used for agricultural uses. We don't first pay it and then get a refund. There's got to be a system, a better system to do it in the