

Nebraska, when literally all of the tax that automobiles contribute to our property tax base are collected in about the first three or four years of the vehicles life under our current system. My biggest concern in addressing this was looking at the system, having so many complaints about our current system and looking for alternatives, and some of the alternatives that are out there is we could go to a South Dakota technique, which many people have applauded and have brought to my attention is a flat rate. Senator Chambers, I am sure, would be appalled at a flat rate such as South Dakota has because the flat rate in the State of Nebraska would need to be \$78 per automobile to generate the same amount of revenue to our counties that we generate now. Now that \$78 would be applied, and you could get into the argument, well, the poor are getting soaked, and the rich are getting off by everybody paying \$78 a year for licensing, and so you'd have that argument. You would have a very serious argument in terms of no matter how old and how much of a clunker and how much I drive, and whether I leave that old green truck in the shed 11 months out of the year, I'm paying \$78. We could get into very sophisticated systems of which would probably cost us a small fortune to track. Have it based on mileage. Have it based on weight. If we talked about weight, and somebody was driving a 12-year old Buick of the vintage when they weighed plenty, they would be paying a considerably higher rate. So those kinds of alternatives don't seem to work. We have a system currently that purports itself to be an ad valorem based system, but as Senator Hall pointed out, and as I tried to point out, using the State Patrol Mustang as an example, our county assessors don't care, they don't go out and as Senator Chambers tried to allude to talking about the house. If you buy a house, the county assessor comes out, looks at a comparative house, uses an income or a cost or a replacement cost basis and tries to determine what that actual market value of that house is and then that's going to be what's carried on the tax rolls. When you pull into the county courthouse with an automobile they don't come out and assess that automobile that's it's a Fort Mustang turned over from the state patrol that you bought for \$500, that it's full of dings, dents and 90,000 miles and is in really rough shape or whether you've got a very nice automobile. As long as it's that year and that model and make, you're all going to pay the same price, so the unfairness that's built into that system is also extremely difficult. Our current system, like you say, in terms of competing with neighboring states I believe we're something like fourth most expensive state in the nation and we can