

obviously, looks at counties across the State of Nebraska for an intercounty equalization problems. That's the reason that, at this point in time, I have a bill up and I...we've heard it in committee, that we're going to try to address and make those...and make cleaner the process, make it easier for people to appeal their intracounty equalization problems. And I think that you might want to look at LB 490 when it comes up because those people in Douglas County I think need a vehicle...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...with which to make an appeal in a quick and easy manner and by them getting their individual pieces correctly valued we'll start with the grass roots. You can't start at the top and equalize. The best way to equalize is to begin at the local level with local assessments and allow for people to easily do those appeals. That bill is coming. I'm afraid that if you do that here and if we don't put in LB 137, at least for the time being, the statement is going to be basically, well, as long as we have property values and we're working on them that that's okay and you'll put off for one more year ever getting any equalization and, to that extent, you undermine the integrity of the property tax system that much more. My fear is that the State Board of Equalization will, because of political pressures, obviously try to retreat on their range of figures. I hope they don't do that, and that's the reason I think you need to change the Constitution to get rid of that entire section...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...and take the politics out of equalization. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Madam Chairman, members of the body, we probably should have had a very in depth discussion on 137 on General File, if not on General File, on Select File, and now we're having...we're here at Final Reading and we're finally getting some of the discussion that we should have had on this bill. And I'm just as guilty of that as the next person, there's a lot of work to do and sometimes, you know, these things kind of pass through your awareness and then you start to hear from people within your areas about don't let this...don't let this bill go