

we've got...we had at one time 45 school districts. I think they're down to 33 or 34 now and I support one of those, by the way, with some stuff I got out there in that school district, but I just wanted to mention that just in case we forgot. Some of us are going to support this but we know when we do this we protect, in some cases, the breaks that some people have had for a long time as compared to some of the rest of us. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Senator Schrock, followed by Senator Bernard-Stevens and Senator Robinson. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Senator Lynch, you may find this odd, but I use you when I campaign and talk about school consolidation. I say that if you, if the people in rural Nebraska don't take some action on their own, there's always Senator Lynch with his one school district per county bill and I think it behooves rural Nebraska to listen because we all know there's fewer rural senators in the body and the fear out there that the urban Nebraska Legislature will do something in the area of forced consolidation I think is a powerful mechanism to provide incentives for these people to consolidate. I hate to say that because I hope that isn't used. Senator Bernard-Stevens, I appreciate your comments on the sunset. That may be the most powerful thing we could do to encourage some of these schools to consolidate, and so at this time I see no problem with offering a sunset on this bill because these small schools will then find out that if they don't consolidate, then they will be left out there all alone with no financial incentives and eventually probably their 1059 funds would dwindle and so there should be some powerful incentives here and I think this could be the carrot, if you don't mind using the vegetable, if you'd rather use a parsnip or a watermelon, I don't care, it doesn't really matter to me. This could be the tool that would get a lot of school districts talking and property taxes are a big issue in rural Nebraska. I think they're bigger in rural Nebraska than urban Nebraska, but Senator Brown disagrees with me. And I think eventually people can see that there's going to be efficiencies involved if they do consolidate. I think there's about 11 teachers looking for jobs in that new consolidated district of Beaver City, Orleans and Oxford because they know that they're not going to have a job because they don't need as many teachers. Obviously with one facility versus three you can eliminate some teachers and instead of teachers teaching four or five students in a selective class or an elective classroom,