

some of them are just to make sure that they keep their land, and so I hope that both states, with further study, can come together on some... some agreement on this matter, so thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, are there any other lights on?

SPEAKER WITHEM: There are not. Your speech would constitute a closing.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay, I will close at that. I appreciate getting to talk about this and I just want you to understand that, after many years, this is a serious situation and I know Senator Vrtiska sees it as that also and I know they're going... Government Affairs will be doing a study on this and I think the committee is... has been apprised of the situation and we need to look at it. There are some issues that are potential problems. We thought we had some agreements on the declining tax revenues for these counties, especially school districts, which you can imagine get a big share of this money, so that issue needs to be discussed and it may be an issue that will have to be brought to this floor to help solve, if the body so desires, some way to mitigate that loss of revenue. One thing about what Senator Vrtiska said about the river changing, the river is fairly stable and has been so for the last many years, so from my perspective I think it is a viable boundary and I guess your guess is as good as mine if it will continue to stay that way, but I think it does make sense to consider that as a possibility and that is what is in the proposal. The real issue really is to how to mitigate this loss of tax revenue to the government entities. Now down there they say that it's... any question as to whether that's Missouri land or Nebraska land and I... obviously, there's been lots of court cases on that already. The problem is there's going to be lots of court cases in the future and if we could work this out amicably through a compromise of some sort I think it will definitely be better for all states. We have a 17 million dollar total spent on by Wyoming, and 8 million dollars spent by Nebraska on a water issue. I don't think this issue should have to be worth millions of dollars, I'm not going to say 25, but it shouldn't have to be worth millions of dollars to settle a boundary dispute if we can settle it and that's the basis of where I'm coming from, because I've seen what other litigations in other