

where the idea is better than what I'm trying to present. But in many cases, in fact I think the majority of cases, leaving this the way it is and studying it for another year and determining exactly what direction we should go is, in my opinion, a better way than what we're trying to do with the original amendment. So I still would hope that I would get your support for my amendment, to leave things the way they are at the present time, extend the lid for one more year, do some studying in the meantime to determine what direction the body wants to take in regard to how they want to cap spending or if they want to cap spending or how they want to address the issue and put some faith back in the local elected officials in dealing with the issues. As I said earlier when I talked a while ago, I have more, feel more strongly about my amendment than I did before the Maurstad amendment simply because it gives those individual counties an opportunity to make the decisions on how much they want to spend and not be penalized because they didn't take the full amount that they were allowed under law to do and thereby getting their budgets reduced in subsequent years. That's been one of the fallacies of the lid system in my opinion is up to now is if you didn't take advantage of all that you were able to levy, then you, in many cases, were penalized and so as a result I found in working with several different entities that they always sort of intended...sort of took the position that they ought to levy the full amount they were allowed to so that they wouldn't in future years be penalized. And so with the Maurstad amendment, this makes my amendment I think a much stronger piece of legislation and with that I would hope that you would support it. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Vrtiska has substituted an amendment for the original one that he had introduced. Any objections? Seeing none, it is substituted. (AM2102 appears on pages 2056-57 of the Legislative Journal.) We will...Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Being passed out right now.

SENATOR CROSBY: Oh, the amendment is being passed out right now. For discussion on the substituted Vrtiska amendment, Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, at this point I'm going to continue supporting the bill as it was introduced plus the committee amendment. Again, one can come