

of the century, has debated property tax. We are in a unique...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...spot. I think we have a chance to do it. I'm going to put my light on because there are other more practical things that we can begin to discuss, but as we do this, I would hope that we would keep those facts and reality in mind and make those tough choices. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Elmer, followed by Senators Vrtiska, Pirsch, Hartnett, Lynch, Maurstad, Schellpeper, Hillman, Beutler, Withem, and Bohlke.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Madam President. When we are talking about property tax and tax levies, we have two sides of an equation that is very important to consider. The amount of money that a county or a local government raises through property tax through its levy depends on the valuation of the property, and the amount of property in the state that is taxable. As you all remember over the past several years, we have had considerable acrimony, machinations, and downright anger over the way that property is valued in this state, and out in my area people are very cynical about property tax caps because they say merely to raise the money they will just raise the value of the property, and I think that that is not addressed when we are talking about this particular type of legislation in this resolution. I didn't see anywhere in there it talks about property valuation and making it fair and equitable and uniform across the state, and I would like to have Senator Warner talk just a little bit about the relationship between the levy and the property valuation problems that we do have and need to address. And, Senator Warner, would you be willing to enlighten us a little there?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Yeah, Madam President, members of the Legislature, thank you, Senator Elmer. There is a couple of references in here, one of which does express, as part of the goal that recognizes the necessity of maintaining what the constitution and the law both require, and that is that property valuations are maintained as required by statute and by the constitution. And that needs to be strengthened as, in my