

you.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I think the suggestion that accompanies in this amendment certainly pinpoints the...the issue as to what magnitude of property tax there is in terms of impact on other tax rates. So I think it's fair to say that, at least in recent years, the tendency has been, as bills have been introduced in the Legislature to perhaps increase one tax, broaden one tax and in return reduce or modify another tax without ever looking at the total picture. I think the amendment recognizes, however, that if you're talking about major property tax reduction, if you recognize that the magnitude, if you believe the magnitude of the problem is so great that just doing the things that can make local and state government more cost effective is not sufficient. Then you have to begin to look at that. What the resolution suggests, however, and the approach that I would think the Legislature would want to consider this, this session, is that first we need to do those things which appear to be able to make government more cost effective, that we improve, make it more likely, provide incentives for greater cooperative efforts, that we authorize the possibilities of mergers in some instances, that we do those things which will enable voters to know or citizens to know more precisely than perhaps is available now as to where the impact of and where the money is going and why, on their, not only their property taxes but their other taxes as, as well. And I'm of the opinion that we need to start with those issues rather than immediately moving to the position that we're just going to increase one tax to decrease another. That may well be a, an alternative on down the line. There isn't any question that that's an alternative we're faced with with some of the petitions that have been, have been circulated. But I think the offering of this resolution for discussion certainly does pinpoint whether you want to first look at ways to create greater efficiency or if we want to immediately recognize that that's inadequate in terms of significant, tremendous reduction in property taxes because I would agree that at that point you need to look at other sources of revenue if that's, if that's the...if that's the choice. But it spells it out. I personally believe that we ought to start with the route that the various committees have suggested through their activities this summer, all of them. And all of