

county because of the practicality of that, of where the leases are and when those leases terminate and also because of the constitutional concerns of injecting ourselves into the role or trustee or fiduciary, which is the role of the Educational Lands and Funds Board. If we get to that point it just seems to me that there could be some question about the entire law, but I think we have made it clear and I'm willing to...I don't think we're going to advance this bill today and I'm willing to certainly discuss that further with Senator Schrock and Senator Withem and anyone else interested, Senator Jones, and see if there is any language that we can arrive at that might ensure at least the intent is that this be a balanced approach of sale, that it not be a wholesale sell-off of property in one or two counties and leave a couple of other counties fully burdened with a number of acres, that that's not the intent. So I'm willing to work with you, Senator Schrock, on any language, but I also, in the meantime, intend to talk with the Board of Educational Lands and Funds and see what their plans are, what their intent would be, and maybe we can assure ourselves that that won't be the problem. But thanks for raising the issue.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you very much. One of the concerns that I've had has been voiced to some extent here by Senator Schrock and Senator Bromm. It seems if this is...if land ownership is going to remain in the purview of the investments we hold for our schools then we should try to invest that in land as equally as we can across our state, whether it's agricultural or commercial property or whatever. And I wonder if Senator Withem would respond to a question.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Withem, will you yield for a question?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Certainly will.

SENATOR ELMER: Senator Withem, would you be amenable to an amendment before we advance this bill that would say something to the effect that, to the extent possible, that the land ownership be spread as equally among the counties as is feasible?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Let...let me...I've been thinking about that since both you and Senator Schrock brought up this issue and I