

concept, but as everything evolves, as that system has in 20-some years, you have a fairly significant amount of administrative expenses when you total the budgets up throughout the state and perhaps there might be some ways to save some money if there were a very hard look at the way they're formed, at their structure, at some possible duplication. Possibly there could be some administrative overlap that could be avoided. So I do strongly support this amendment. I hope the body will see fit to do so. I think it's just another way that we might be able to facilitate a little bit of property tax relief. Granted, most of the mill levies for NRDs are in the three to four mill, three to four cent range and that isn't a horrendous amount compared to the total property tax levy that most of us have, but every little bit helps. And if we look at every component and every component can find some measure of savings somewhere then I think we will have done an excellent job in a couple three years. So I urge the body to adopt this amendment to the committee amendments. Thank you.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Kristensen on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I guess I rise with some hesitancy about this amendment for the following reasons. If we're going to begin to do property tax relief work, and this is the beginning process of doing that, this is a good amendment in terms of what ought to happen. My fear is that this is what should happen in almost every area of someone dealing with property tax. In other words, this one by itself is pretty good. Where do I draw the line and, in fact, shouldn't all groups begin to do this? It's my understanding, Senator Beutler, and I don't need a yes or no but you'll correct me if I'm wrong, this was part of our 206 Committee and one of the recommendations that came out of this, was this type of study or this type of approach, at least in general terms. My fear becomes if this bill becomes full of everybody going to study everything there'll be less likelihood to do the tougher things that may have to occur. And, while this one may be all right, in effect what it does is says go out, look at what you have in terms of your revenue base, your size, could you consolidate? Those are things that they ought to be looking at now among themselves, and the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature has not been shy of working certainly and addressing these issues as well. The other part