

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...I just had one other point that I wanted to make before my time ran out, and that is, I would imagine my phone rang as much as anybody else's did over the weekend and people are concerned about what they perceive is taking place. And one of the words that came up consistently, and I think probably some, the rest of you will recognize it, and that's the word "mandates". Continually I was told that if this federal government and state government didn't mandate some of these requirements that the cost of government wouldn't continue to increase. And I just wondered what your response is.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I'm sorry, Senator, I didn't realize you were further addressing me. Please say that again, I...

SENATOR VRTISKA: I was just saying that one of the words that I heard all the time when people call me that the mandates from the state and federal government are one of the things that are driving their costs up, things that they're required to do and no money to do it with. I just wondered what, if you, if that was a message you got or how do you address that.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, I think that's one of the messages, certainly. And certainly we're going to have to be conscious of our mandates.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time. Senator Beutler, you're recognized to speak.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I'll waive for the moment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Just a few minutes. Senator Kristensen, if you could.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes.

SENATOR HILLMAN: In your last statement, when you talked about counties having more control over levies for other taxing