

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay, thank you. I've been listening to the debate. And I think that this ought to stay in the bill myself. I sense as we look at potential mergers among counties that there is going to be some dissension and tension and other things among particularly county board members. Like if this Legislature was to...like if a bicameral Legislature was made into a Unicameral Legislature, there's automatically those that are going to lose their seats and those that aren't. And I see this very potential thing happening on county boards. And so you're going to have those that are going to resist change for whatever reason. It just seems to me that we ought to push ahead to at least make this feasible, because putting good faith effort in there, to me, is a reasonable thing to do. It may be hard to define, but we all know of certain situations where we're asked where things are put on ballots and they're ignored or whatever. I think this is going to develop into probably some controversial areas across the state. It isn't necessarily that I would say it automatically ought to happen. But I think if this is to move forward, the Legislature ought to at least indicate here and other areas. I think we're going to have other areas probably having to do with villages, towns, schools, whatever, that if we really are serious in our intent to do something about property taxes we're going to have to make some harder decisions than simply allowing it to happen. We're going to have to show that we have...we're serious about our intent to do something and follow through. And it's... I think some of these are going to be difficult to make, and they're going to have some repercussions among some of us as we do this. But if we are seriously going to get at this issue there's going to have to be some uncomfortable things put into the practice and the force of law. I think this is one that delineates what we are thinking. A good faith effort is important if this is to happen. And if the will of the people, via this petition process, is to happen it shouldn't be able to be thwarted by a very small number of people by refusing to do so. Perhaps this isn't the right effort to...or the right method of make this happen, I'm not sure. But until I find...figure a better way, I think this ought to be left in the bill, and so I will oppose the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President, members of the Legislature,