

discussion why special ed costs are higher in some districts than they are in others, and I don't know that we have the answer to that yet but it certainly needs to be answered. We need to know if there are more special needs students in some districts that have higher needs than there are in other districts. We also had an opportunity to point out the fact that it really is unfair that some school districts who have more special ed students than other school districts with exactly everything else being equal get less equalization aid. You decided with me on the amendment that that wasn't fair, so when we adopted the amendment, you know, we did...we did do it in the name of fairness and it is a fairer system under the...with the amendment than the present one. But I can see that it probably needs some further work and that we will come back next year. I have had assurances from not only the Chairman of the Education Committee, Senator Bohlke, but others on the committee as well that we will address this question and that it will be part of the special ed task force...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ..report and you do have a commitment from me and I'm sure from others who are supportive of this amendment that we will keep the spotlight on this issue because it is...it is an issue of fairness. As we said when we adopted the amendment, it ought to be taken out of the tier like transportation, so we will come back another day to deal with it. Meanwhile, I would ask you to support the reconsideration motion. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Before beginning the debate on this reconsideration motion, the Legislature does have guests today. Under the north balcony, Mary Jane Nielsen of Brunswick, Nebraska, she's here for the Pork Producers' meeting and she's the guest of Senator Dierks; and Senator Hillman and Matzke have Bob Busch from Mitchell, George Chikos from Bridgeport and they're with the Nebraska Beet Growers' Association. They're under the south balcony. Would all of you please stand and be welcomed by your Legislature. Thank you for being here. Senator Schimek, your light was next. Did you...? She waives off. Senator Bohlke, followed by Withem, Hillman, Wickersham, Robinson, and Abboud. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Madam President and members, I rise in support