

and that is again I would repeat, that the lid is on the governing bodies, not upon the people. There is no magic in 87 cents, there is no magic in 45 plus 5. What we've created in the Revenue Committee, with the introduction of this bill, is a new concept where there is a definable source of resources that can be done without community approval, but an unlimited, an unlimited amount that can be done with the citizens' approval. A village of 200 people, with 150 registered voters would not have to have very many people at a town hall meeting once a year to set any levy that they want above the 45 and 5. The Maurstad amendment proposes to change those amend...and I don't find fault with Senator Maurstad for bringing this amendment, but as you think about it, remember that the fight we have, the battle we're up against is it's almost a complete change in concept of how the funding for local government services, not just cities and villages, not just counties and school districts, but all local government is funded, and bringing back into that mix to a greater extent than is available at voting for the town boards, and then having recall elections, or whatever. But we're giving back to the people who live in the cities, whatever they are, the opportunity to have a greater degree of control, and I do not believe that there is a lesser opportunity for the providing for and the paying for of the essential services and the nice services, and the things we like, whether that's a park or a swimming pool or a whatever, you fill it in with what you like about your community, the people who live in that community are going to pay for it. This bill in its form it's introduced gives them the opportunity to have a voice in making that decision. It can be done by a majority vote of the elected board to put it on a ballot, can be done by an initiative petition of 5 percent of the registered voters in the town. In most of the smaller communities, that doesn't amount to very many people even needed. It's a total departure from the restrictions we put in place and one that takes some amount of thought. I had to hassle with this a long time before I came to see the vision in it and how it would work. And as you debate the Maurstad amendment, which I don't support, but as we debate the amendment, remember what the underlying premise of 1114 is. It's not any kind of a cap. No cap. No limit. No restriction...

SENATOR WILL: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...(inaudible) the people that live in a