

superintendents and, understandably enough, they are scared to death of the bill, and I understand that. I have had calls from a number of the mayors of the towns, smaller towns in my district, who are scared to death of the bill, and I understand that. But I'm...unless something in the debate changes my mind, I am going to try to support the bill because we simply can't have it both ways. We cannot stand here and say that property taxes are too high, we need property tax relief, and not, and not try to figure out the best process for getting to a point where we are less dependent upon property taxes. There is no easy way and there is no perfect way, but I think the...I think the Revenue Committee has done a reasonably good job of coming up with a process, and I emphasize the process, because the...this is not an end in itself. The public will not support a move to other replacement revenue if they feel there's a reasonable chance of property tax creeping back up again. So I think this is the first step in the process. We have...we are testing the confidence of the people as to whether or not they do have confidence in us, that we will provide the necessary safety net for the small town, the small school, or the larger town or the larger school, for that matter, if we adopt this kind of legislation. I hope that we have enough confidence in ourselves that we will do that. I do have and it is for that reason, primarily, that I'm going to support 1114. I, at this point, will not support the Maurstad amendment. I see it only opening the door to higher property taxes in smaller towns where we can probably afford to pay them even less than they can some other places. So I don't see...I can't buy the rationale for that. I believe we will provide the safety net as time goes along and after we see how the amendments come out on the ballot this fall and so forth. No adjacent state is as dependent upon property tax as Nebraska and we have to move to a position that is more consistent with what I think people are willing to accept in terms of property tax. Senator Landis, if you would yield to a question.

SENATOR WILL: Senator Landis, would you yield?

SENATOR BROMM: Do you still think that the worse thing that could happen in the world is for you to accidentally, temporarily and inadvertently lose your files?

SENATOR LANDIS: It's not the worse thing in the world.