

locally, it can be done. As you increase these levies, the incentive to do it goes away, at some point would totally disappear and nothing will happen. There's other aspects to the amendment, which would also concern me, by the way, all those levies exclude bonded indebtedness. And some of the levies I have heard in different communities, many of them have a substantial amount of levy for bond indebtedness, which would not be affected. But we rec...but one of the concepts in here, and it's the same concept, as a matter of fact, that we have in schools that we argue about, but that is of equalization. And one of the concepts, it comes up in a later bill, but there is funds distributed to these smaller towns on an equalization basis that will fill part of the gap. What you will be told back at the window is that doesn't mean anything because the Legislature will change it next year or the year after that. Yeah, they might. I can't argue that. The Supreme Court pointed out the other day very clearly we can't bind a future Legislature, and we all know that, in any event. But the plan is in place to do it. The legislation is in place before you to do it, and the gap that is talked about simply would not exist to the extent talked about. And the final analysis, again, is the fact that it could be voted. I have a concern if we start down the route that Senator Maurstad wants to go, we are going to start a tier system now with towns, and we all know the tier system problem that some of you may feel that we ended up with on school aid, and there's justification for it, I am not going to argue that, but here's going to be another tier system.

SENATOR WILL: One minute.

SENATOR WARNER: And we were attempting to avoid that kind of a tier system, that the people who live in a small town ought to have the same opportunity for a lower property tax as the people in a big town, if that's the case, but, most importantly, they are going to have an option if this whole thing holds together, and that option is going to be for voting to expand the cooperative efforts, one of the most likely places will be public safety. And there is another provision to provide additional funding for that as well in one of the later bills, but when we look at many of these high-cost areas, we found that they had a public safety force that could have much more effectively been handled through a cooperative effort with the county and the sheriff, fewer people, fewer costs, and probably better service. It is the kind of thing that we have in