

Lancaster County. Many counties have it. It works very effectively, but those are the kind of things that we are trying to encourage with...

SENATOR WILL: Time.

SENATOR WARNER: ... (inaudible) rather than with a hammer and I urge the body to oppose Senator Maurstad's amendment.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Cudaback is recognized, followed by Senators Klein, Maurstad, Coordsen, Fisher, Robinson, Hartnett, Kristensen, and Avery.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Speaker and members, I guess the Revenue Committee is in a tough spot here. We give them heck if they don't put something out, and we give them heck if they do put something out. So I do respect them and I appreciate their stance. They gave us something here to debate and come up with a solution to and, hopefully, we can work through it so it works for everyone. I guess what worries me about the whole situation here is that we all represent different sizes, different types of communities. We all know what's happening. In the big picture, the big picture is that the small towns are getting smaller. The small towns are getting smaller. We know that. The last election, we know what happened to Senator Schrock. Senator Schrock's district was moved to Omaha, from that area. Gone. We had a conversation this noon if a poll was taken right now on a census basis, we would probably lose about two more people. Counties down here, the areas in the east would gain probably two more senators. This is happening, believe it or not. I mean it's just true, just the way it is. The smaller towns are having a tough fight. Why are they having a tough fight? Because we all have cars. These cars will all go, what, 60 mile an hour, maybe 70, 75. They can buzz into the... hate to name names, but Wal-Mart's, the K-Mart's. The Wal-Mart's, the K-Mart's, the biggest, they are sucking us dry. They really are. Their sales tax runs their cities. Their sales tax runs their cities. Us smaller towns, we don't have a way of generating income other than property tax. I think my property tax is too high, too. I really do. I think it's too high. I give my own self heck, you might say. I talked to the mayor and say you are raising my taxes. You know, we all do this. You give your own... but it's true, I mean, nobody likes property taxes but, in this case, I really think we are not attacking the situation