

thought that our property taxes are too high. But I would also submit that most people would indicate that their income taxes are too high and that their sales tax is too high along with their property taxes being too high. I think in general people believe that their taxes are too high. There isn't any question that because of the way the state has developed over the period of time that Senator Kristensen mentioned that we have an overreliance on property taxes to support local services and that's a problem. It's also correct that a lot of states around us, while they also are somewhat reliant on property taxes, don't also have problems. And we've all talked about the reasons why Nebraska has the system that it has based on population and resources and age of our citizens and a lot of other things like that. But as people have visited with me over the course of the last eight or nine years, the one thing that they are mostly concerned about, as Senator Schellpeper mentioned, is how we finance our schools at the local level. And the Legislature has taken a number of very positive steps in my opinion over the course of the last few years to try to build a better finance system for schools.

SENATOR WILL: One minute.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Put I don't hear a lot of complaints as I go and visit about the levy on the ag society or the levy for the city or the county, the levy for the Historical Society, the NRDs. They focus and they're concerned about their school taxes. So while I agree certainly with what the Revenue Committee is trying to accomplish and I echo not only what I have said on other occasions but also what's been said today that the Revenue Committee has done a great deal of work for which I'm very appreciative. All I'm trying to do with this particular amendment is to make a small modification in this particular circumstance to make it in the eyes of the beholder, and I guess that's the individual that offered the amendment, a little fairer.

SENATOR WILL: Senator Maurstad, Senator Klein's time has expired but your light is next. You may continue.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. President. Just to carry on the conversation along the same general thought, just a little bit of comment on some of the points made, I agree and I think the citizens are looking for those guarantees that in fact if