

there is any savings here that it goes to save property taxes. So let me indicate, and I'm not trying to have it both ways, but let me indicate that I think that we need to try to provide those guarantees from as reasonable a perspective as possible. I agree with that aspect of the Revenue Committee's work in making sure that we cap levies, that we make sure that we look at the spending so that if additional revenues are provided it does provide property tax relief. However, I am very concerned and the reason why my focus has been on how to try to make these pieces of legislation, like we do in all other circumstances, better pieces of legislation by having 49 senators work on them instead of 8 or 15 senators working on them is to try to make it as good a package when we're done with it as possible. That's where the motive for my work. Senator Coordsen indicated that I've missed the point that we're putting a lid on the governing body but not a lid on the people. And I would submit that if local control has worked so well in the past, why do we even have this package before us? If local government has been so effective and in fact has not...has fulfilled their wishes of their citizens, we wouldn't be having the clamor that it's up to the Legislature to fix this problem. We wouldn't have this package of bills if that were the case. Secondly, we're talking about a very fundamental issue and that being representative type of government that we obviously believe very strongly in as elected officials of 32,000 people versus direct democracy. Are we going to make a direction more towards direct democracy at the local level? Are we going to put and expect that local governments cooperate on a direct democracy situation where they're going to have town votes on all of these circumstances? Are we going to continue to work on the way we have in the past relative to a representative type government knowing that those local officials who are close to the citizens, who live in those communities, that have to live under the ordinances that they pass, whether or not they're representative of those that elect them and are going to do the right thing for their citizens? We all know that many of us on the floor have served in various forms of local government. You get a lot more personal contact at the local level than you do as a state senator. They're there walking the streets, going to the churches, being involved in organizations. People know that they're an elected official in that local government. They provide them with input, and I believe that they try to respond to the input that they receive relative to this particular issue so I would put forth that what we're looking at here by providing direct democracy I think we