

They can have a wheel tax like Omaha, that's a very popular one, an occupational tax. They can have fees...yeah, garbage tax, enterprise function. They could have their revenue support service of electricity, gas, water, sewer and so forth. We're really talking about a change. Have the cities looked at do we have to have a small police department in each one of the small cities or can we do it some other way? Can we cooperate with the county, with the sheriffs? We had a bill in front of Urban Affairs Committee this year and the bill was to do away with the city police department. I never saw so many uniforms in my life like we're going to touch, going to destroy the world. We're going to take away their turf. And I think we need to do this. We're talking about a change. Making cities, making school districts, making counties look at can we do like Senator Warner says, do this more efficient? That's what we're really looking at. Can we do a better job of providing local services? They do have the vote in the small towns, just a town hall meeting like Senator Coordsen brought out so there is the means. The cities want to be treated differently, but they have other means to raise money if they want to their means without going to a vote of the people. If I have any time, I'll have to give it to Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WILL: Senator Wickersham, you have about 2 minutes and 45 seconds.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. I've had to miss part of this debate but now that I've come back to it I'm glad to hear some people making what I think are very, very sensible comments about what we're doing. And part of my motivation for doing all of this is that I genuinely believe that people are paying too much in property taxes, whether they're paying too much in the cities, whether they're paying too much outside the cities, people are paying too much in property tax, period. And they're frustrated and they're angry and they're angry because there doesn't seem to be anything they can do about how much they're being asked to pay. Someone tried to characterize that as an issue of local control, but I think it goes a little bit beyond that because this bill, 1114, really provides very good mechanisms for local control and making local decisions to have higher property taxes if people want it. Part of what I think the property tax issue is about is kind of a five and dime cent syndrome if you will. I don't know how many of you remember the five and dime stores. You go into them,