

everything was cheap. Everything was 10 cents. But if you loaded up your basket with enough things by the time you got to the checkout counter, that didn't mean you could pay for it. And we have part of that process, that identical process in the property tax arena. We have cities that take 75 cents and a school that takes a dollar and then a county that takes 50 cents and then an NRD...

SENATOR WILL: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...that takes a nickel and on and on and on. And by the time you get to the pay window at the county treasurer's office, you found out you can't pay for it but you don't have any way to put anything back on the shelf. One of the advantages of 1114 is that you know right off the bat how big your basket is and how much you can put in there. There will be no overloading at the checkout counter. There will not be a need to put anything back on the shelf. You didn't put it in your basket to start with. And I think that's one of the primary advantages of 1114. I disagree with Senator Maurstad's amendment. I understand what he is trying to do. I don't think it is appropriate in the context of this bill. There are other ways to address the issues that Senator Maurstad is raising. The other difficulty we have is, of course, meeting the very, very specialized circumstances of each individual community in our state.

SENATOR WILL: Time. Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. When we began to have hearings on the property tax debate, obviously one of the things that came to the committee was a variety of proposals. And each one of the groups that are going to be lobbying you, if they haven't done it already and they will in the near future, all had the opportunity to come to the Revenue Committee and all did. And I would venture to say that we probably set a record this year for number of opponents for bills. I don't remember having a bill where there were more proponents than there were opponents for anything except the message was always the same. We've got to do something about property taxes. Those property taxes are too high. We hear the voice of the people. We've got to respond and yet we're opposed to this particular piece. The reason 1114 is so attractive and