

limitations of 1114. And maybe ultimately they'll have...will have to acknowledge that they can't, but I think that is still where we ought to start. Think several other people have indicated we have a couple of years to review what we're intending to do here and if we have it wrong at least we could fix it some time later. I was quite intrigued by the comments that Senator Cudaback made about the small towns not being able to compete with some of the larger towns. I think we must have some sort of a new economic development argument because if you can suddenly become more competitive with high property taxes we've got a pretty easy time of things around here. I don't think that's the way it works. I don't think that's the way it works at all. And, really, the problem in the smaller communities is the same problem in all small scale operations. It simply costs more on a per capita basis to offer the same thing because it maybe isn't used as often. But that isn't a function of property taxes. That isn't a function of utility rates. That isn't a function of keno revenues or anything else. That's simply a function of scale and size and we're not going to be able to cure that, Senator Cudaback. I'm sorry, but we're not going to make these communities competitive by allowing them to have 75 cents worth of property tax. That isn't going to happen. I was considerably heartened to hear Senator Hartnett, the chair of the Urban Affairs Committee, stand and talk to the body about the other sources of revenues that cities have and I agree with Senator Hartnett that those are significant sources of revenue and that they can use those to supplement the property tax and be able, hopefully, to meet the needs of their citizens. They certainly have far more flexibility in that regard than other political subdivisions do, certainly more than the schools, certainly more than the counties, and certainly more than NRDs, the other political subdivisions that you might want to pick out. So I am...I believe that the cities can live within the 45 cents that are allocated to them with the additional 5 cents that they can use for joint operations. And, like everybody else, if it is absolutely, flatly impossible and this Legislature can be shown that it is flatly and absolutely impossible two years from now, a change can be made. But that is not the place to start. The place to start is like all these other bidding auctions, is you start low and you only come up if you absolutely have to. We're nowhere near absolutely having to come up. We are at the place where we need to start and we need to evaluate...