

Thank you.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Senator Jensen. Senator Jensen, you're recognized.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Senator Will, members of the body. It has been a great experience to listen to the debate today and I do commend the Revenue Committee for bringing forward LB 1114 and I certainly support the bill and hope that the rest of the senators see fit to do so. And the reason I do, is I do really wonder what happens if we fail to pass LB 1114, if we fail at this time to bite the bullet to really try to bring some control upon ourselves and the expenditures within our state? Because if we make adjustments here with the cities, the next will be the counties, and then the schools and the NRDs and the ESUs and all the rest of it. Now one thing about this is this only affects our statute. It is not a constitutional amendment like initiative petitions that are out there. And if the initiative petitions, any of them, are successful we're not going to have the opportunity to stand here today and to debate whether 30 cents is enough or 60 cents is too much or whatever that figure may be. But we have the opportunity today to determine the fate of our state. It is certainly with interest that I look at the various levies that our cities do have across the state, and I thank Senator Schellpeper for providing that. Last year, I had the opportunity to take a Farm Bureau tour, and I thank them for that, and we've toured the south central part of the state. We did get down to Fairbury and I was just so impressed with that community in that their average sale of their homes is 35,000 dollars, and these are nice homes in a very nice community where there is medical facilities. They have one of the finest parks in the state and, by the way, the improvements of that park were not built with tax dollars but were built by the community with blood, sweat and tears and then some donations from some individuals, and if any of you have the opportunity, drive down, take the kids and spend a day down there. You'll be impressed. But here the price of the homes were 35,000 dollars, average, in the community of Fairbury and in Omaha, why, we're probably about 90,000 and I think that's one of the best kept secrets, not only in Nebraska but in the state and in the nation and I think they ought to advertise that on the East Coast and West Coast and certainly maybe they'll pick up some retirees to come and enjoy the good life of Nebraska. So I, with those comments, I would just like to urge the body to pass 1114. I think it is