

discussions on this floor. My time is up so I thank you very much.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Dierks on the bracket motion. I do not see Senator Dierks. Senator Klein on the bracket motion.

SENATOR KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and fellow members. I think that we're just getting in a hurry here. I know there's some problems. I still like Senator Maurstad's amendment, I think we need that, but I'm opposed to the bracket motion and, with that, I think I'll give the rest of my time to Senator Maurstad.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. President, and I appreciate that, Senator Klein, but I don't want to speak on the bracket motion. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Hilgert on the bracket motion.

SENATOR HILGERT: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members, I just wanted to make myself very clear and we do not exist in a vacuum, neither does the petitions. The petitions are only existing because people are upset with the high property taxes. I've...this is what we're reacting to. We're reacting to the public perception and the concern out there that property taxes are too high. In my own case, my property valuations has gone up 36 percent since 1992. Everyone thinks property taxes are too high. They ask the State Legislature to do something about that. We don't spend the property taxes. The local subdivisions spend the property taxes. LB 1114 puts the process at the feet of the local subdivisions to determine whether they can make the case to the people that they represent that the services that they offer are worth the property taxes. I'm not so sure, and here's another little dose of optimism, I'm not so sure that they can't make that case. I think they can in many instances. When you...when you talk to individuals and you go through where their taxes go and you talk to them about what would you like to cut, the property tax crisis ends up becoming a property tax frustration. I think that the end product of 1114 will be more involvement by our people in our state with their local