

SENATOR HILGERT: Well, let me address Omaha. That's...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Um-hum.

SENATOR HILGERT: ..where I'm from.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Um-hum.

SENATOR HILGERT: (Laugh) First of all, what we're responding to is frustration about high property taxes. People that I have encountered, my neighbors, my friends, people I've met in south Omaha have expressed concern that property taxes are too high.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Um-hum.

SENATOR HILGERT: Everyone believes there is waste wherever you are, at all levels of government. What we need to do is to demonstrate that what waste is there is ferreted out. If there is no waste demonstrate that also. And relate to the political...or the people of Omaha that this is where your money goes, there is no waste, this is what your property taxes pay for. At that point, people will be no long...they'll...will be no longer frustrated with the high property taxes at that point or they will say, hey, we do think that that is wasteful. Okay, you haven't made that argument. What this does is restore some creditability into the process that we have city officials that are working very, very hard, I know the city council's working hard, but yet there's a very low reliability. People are frustrated with what's going on.

SENATOR CUDABACK: But did you know that the levy isn't at 45 cents?

SENATOR HILGERT: Pardon me? Forty-five...

SENATOR CUDABACK: My point is...

SENATOR HILGERT: Yeah.

SENATOR CUDABACK: ..Omaha's levy is not there, so how is this going to help...

SENATOR HILGERT: Well, it would decrease...