

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. I appreciate your knowledge of this, Senator Warner.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Would like to recognize guests of Senator Matzke. Sitting under the south balcony, we have Bob and Anne Binhammer from Omaha. Could you be recognized, please? Senator Maurstad, our records up here indicate that you have opened and spoken twice on this. You'll be able to close, but your number of speaking times have expired, so, Senator Robinson, you are recognized.

SENATOR ROBINSON: It's hard to hold my anger back. Gosh. I call the question.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Do I see five hands? I do. The question before the body is, shall debate now cease on the Maurstad amendment? All of those in favor of closing debate vote aye; those wishing to not cease debate vote nay. Record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 27 ayes, 3 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Debate has ceased. Senator Maurstad, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We always recognize that there are some differences between Omaha and the rest of the state at times and, you know, most of the people in most of my communities know what their levy is. It's important...it's certainly important to them. And on top of that, Omaha's going to lose in this end deal if we do the equalization thing, so not only is Omaha not going to benefit from this particular situation or be affected by my amendment, but they'll lose relative to the equalization aspect of it. But, to get on to the bill or my amendment, the whole purpose of this is to continue the tier system that we currently have for the communities in Nebraska based upon...based upon their size. We're going to reduce the levy for our cities and second class villages to 75 cents, which is a 59 percent reduction from what their current lid is. We're going to reduce cities of the first class to 60 cents, which is a 47 percent reduction in what their current lid is, and we're going to keep Lincoln and Omaha at 45 cents, and I would submit to you that I don't think anybody's