

LB 1177 is based upon that one-third of all of the municipalities current levy is bonded indebtedness. Now, granted, there might be some that are...that would be applicable to. But I think we would all agree that there are many that have a wide variety of bonded indebtedness as a percent of their total levy and, as a result, LB 1177 kind of gives us a glimpse of what might happen relative to the state aid. But it's not a completely accurate picture and, of course, that's because the information was not available to the Revenue Committee on how much of their...the various cities' levy is property...or bonded indebtedness because those figures currently don't have to be reported. So we go through, and that provides basically a very similar...similar study on the effects at the varying limits by the varying municipalities. The whole concern here is that we don't completely take away the options of second class cities and villages to continue to try to make a go of it. Now please understand that I recognize that for villages, the town hall concept is certainly there, and with a small number of people, you could increase the levy. My amendment doesn't take that away. That would still be...still be allowed. What the amendment does provide for, however, is that the increase over 50 cents, by those that could go higher than 50 cents, would be the referendum efforts could be implemented if they increased their limit above 50 cents to, say, 70 cents for a village. Referendum and initiative process is applicable to municipalities, it's not to the other local political subdivisions at this time. But, in essence, what that would do is give the people a chance, provide them once again in a different way, a measure of local control in that if the governing body increased the levy, they would be able to use the referendum process to take that back to the governing board, at which time the governing board could decide to agree with the referendum issue or they could then put it on the ballot and let the voters decide. But it provides an avenue that all of these types of things wouldn't have to go to the expense of having a ballot issue. So it provides just another tool to be used relative to that. It doesn't replace what's in the current bill, but provides a little bit more flexibility. With that, I will...I will close my opening and try to respond to any questions that might occur, and would ask, after the discussion, that you adopt the amendment to AM4131, and then adopt the main amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Warner,