

referendum. But then you...I think you're going to lose what is so important...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WARNER: ...as to encourage the cooperative efforts which will be less likely to take effect if the Maurstad amendment as amended is enacted.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Madam Speaker and members, this is a tough issue and I guess we all know it's a tough issue. I guess we were sent down here to make tough decisions. I talked to Senator Crosby a while ago and she said that she was discouraged. And I said, well, that's a sign you're doing something. So if that's a sign we're doing something, I guess we're all kind of discouraged and we're all nervous and we all know that the Revenue Committee spent a lot of time on this issue, and they...we give them heck because they didn't put out a package. Now we're giving them heck because we think the package is too tough. Well, it is a tough issue. And when I ran for this office, a person says to me, in my area. He says, I really don't care what you do down there just as long as you do something, and you remember where you come from. So I guess all these issues, whether you come from the eastern part of the state or the western part of the state, we all represent different people, and I guess that's the bottom line. I have a lot of villages and I have a lot of smaller towns and I think we need to make sure that these smaller towns survive. And I guess I feel personally that it's pretty hard to survive on 45 cents. Now if you have a sales tax, it's a different story. I think we have a compromise here. I think the Maurstad amendment is not exactly what we all...what we want, but it's 70 cents, and at 50 cents, I think that's a...that's a line where we can start from. And I think some of the towns maybe can survive with this going on, or with this limit. It won't help them all, as the printout states here, but the 45 cents is a bit much to swallow if you're trying to survive in some of my towns that have a \$2 levy right now. A \$2 levy down to a 45 cent levy, I guess, is pretty hard to even buy gas for the tractor to mow the weeds. I'm stretching it a little bit here like I usually do, but I just hope this all works out and I hope I...I come back here next year or the next year and say...and I have to eat crow. I