

or whoever, we're putting those levy limits on. But if you just look and say, and the conversation goes no further, we're putting a levy limit on, everybody'd vote no. That's the reason we've got these other protections. That's the reason we've got the right to override by a fairly easy process. That's the reason we've got 1177 in there to give them some money and, basically, and there's no secret to this, that money in 1177 is coming from larger communities to assist those smaller communities and that's where the give and take on that is. And that's the reason this package and everybody will maybe pooh-pooh the package, but this isn't a matter of just seeing what can get passed. It's the fact that as we put the whole thing together, we begin to place some logs at the bottom and build up. And one of the foundations of this is the ability that we don't want to kill towns, we don't want to kill schools, we don't want to kill counties, and we want to give them ways to, one, survive, but we also want to make some way they're going to change. They're not going to change without a reason to change. We all know that. We've given them a lot of opportunity. It's a difficult thing to put levy limits on but I think you all know that it's probably the best thing to do at this point in time and it's also two years back. They're going to have a period of two years in which to find ways to live under this. Then they're going to have the opportunity to also exceed that and, in the meantime, we're going to try to find ways to make the property tax system a little leaner, a little meaner. But if you don't do the levy limits, and I assume what happens if I give some leeway here to the communities the schools will have the exact same argument and it's going to be very difficult for you to look at them and say, sorry, we like the cities better than we do the schools. And then you're going to have to do the same thing for the counties...

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...and then, by the time you're all done, you do those three, you don't have any levy limits and we're back to where we began. And that's the dilemma we had and that's the reason we put in the levy limit. And I, again, I don't know that anybody in the Revenue Committee enjoys doing that, but we know full well if we're going to begin this process we've got to start somewhere and fashion a reasonable levy limit to begin with, freeze the spending as best we can until those limits come in, allow people to make some efficiencies, allow