

debate.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Debate ceases. The Chair recognizes Senator Abboud to close on the amendment.

SENATOR ABOUDD: Thank you, Madam President and members. I'm going to go a little bit different here and make one concluding remark that I feel is something that hasn't been addressed here and really hasn't been the best...addressed during the debate on 1050 or during the entire property tax debate. And that is, what happens if we pass all of those property tax measures? Will we have a change in our state aid formula? Now there's been discussions among the members here that there will be major changes. And I go back and forth on whether or not...whether this bill really is all that important when you look in the bigger perspective of the changes that are going to be coming down the road. Now, obviously, if the petition drives, if one of them passes, the entire state aid formula goes out the window and we start from square one, we reformulate our entire state aid formula. And my belief is that once we make the changes in the property tax formula that's a part of the package by the Revenue Committee, next year we'll make major changes in our state aid formula. The discussions will begin because of the reduction of levies that some of these school districts are going to have to have. So we're going to have major changes down the road on state aid anyway. The discussions may...will start next year, they'll conclude the following year I would assume, and we'll have our change in state aid. So 1050 really is an issue that is probably going to be moot in a couple of years because we will have a change in our formula, which to me, which further baffles me as to why we're proceeding with it when we know that we're going to have to make major changes in next year or the following year. Why go through the agony of passing this bill? Why go through the risk of passing a piece of legislation that will clearly reduce...increase property taxes for a large percentage of the school districts around the state and increase the likelihood that we will have a constitutional amendment that we will have to deal with that will severely restrict our ability to govern the people of this state? Why take that chance? Why take the chance on a bill that's not going to be around in two years? I haven't understood that, I really haven't. And we have a lot of very intelligent people here in the body and to me I'm still baffled as to what the point of going through all of this pain, agony, and risk for