

I, for one, am rising to acknowledge I will support LB 1114 off of Select File, think about it further, but the only reason I'm doing so is because I do think that it will send a message that we want the subdivisions of government in this state to begin to seriously examine things that they have not seriously considered in the past. But in the end, I acknowledge the arguments that Senator Beutler has made and I think Senator Bernard-Stevens has made that these sort of lids, that these sort of limitations on local governments will have severe consequences to the quality of life that we have, to the quality of education that we have, quality of public services that we have, and all of these are intertwined. So I will reflect on this further, but I do see at this time a desire to move forward, but if we think that this ends the process to me...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: .. (inaudible) again, it begins the effort. A lot of discussion at the local level will have to occur. A lot of discussion town by town, school district by school district, city by city, county by county will have to occur as to what in fact is a proper level of taxation in services across the state of Nebraska. I think this discussion is healthy. I would prefer it to the discussion we're now having with petition circulators sticking something in front of somebody's face and saying, you want lower property taxes, sign the petition. It's not exactly a dialogue that leads to constructive solutions. I don't think those petitions in fact lead to construction solutions. They would put us in a straitjacket, a constitutional straitjacket at that, and so I oppose those constitutional amendments. This is statutory. It gives us a chance to be flexible. I think we'll need to be flexible because I think the limitations will be too severe and the impact too negative on the state ultimately, but nevertheless I, for one, am attempting to work to apply pressure to see change...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Time.

SENATOR WESELY: ..and I would support LB 1114 for that reason. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Warner, followed by Senator Schrock, Schellpeper, and Robinson.