

we really don't do much about it. And I said, well. I was hopeful that this year we'd do something about it because I know that it has really built up to the point where citizens are very, very concerned about it. They have their petition drives circulating. They talk about it in the coffee shops. They talk about it before school boards and city hall meetings. But I had no illusions that something this major would be accomplished by the Legislature and I think the fact that the Revenue Committee, Senator Warner as Chair, all the hard work that Senator Kristensen put in on it and the other members of the Revenue Committee should be applauded by the Legislature because I know that they've taken a lot of heat. They spent a lot of time trying to formulate a package that would be acceptable by this body and, at the same time, assure the public that the Legislature was very much, in fact, concerned about property tax relief this year. So I want to thank them for taking the time and doing the work that was necessary and I think that it shows that in recent years I think the Legislature maybe hasn't come up the major packages, the major changes, and the fact that the Legislature did this I think is a major accomplishment for this year. Now, saying all that, I want to also add that I think this is the very first step towards the property tax debate and the passage of LB 1114 is only one small step towards the reduction in property taxes. There will be bills brought in next year and the following year to deal with the passage of LB 1114 and how we will fully implement the changes for property tax relief and, with that in mind, I am going to be supporting this bill and also, because of the changes that were enacted by LB 1050 which severely damaged my...some of my school districts, I feel that this is really my only option to try to reformulate the state aid formula, which I feel needs to be done. And with the passage of this bill we will be back at the drawing board deciding on what is the proper approach towards funding to education and that is another reason why I'm going to be supporting LB 1114, because we certainly need to make changes in the state aid formula from what was enacted this year and it's my hope that we will have a fairer and better way of funding education than what was enacted by LB 1050, so that's one of the reasons why I'm going to be supporting the bill. And, finally, I'd like to say that I know that the...some of the members will certainly take some heat for the passage of this bill, but that the general public I feel will be better served by a statutory change and the statutory limitations versus a constitutional change which will not be able to be changed by this Legislature