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mechanism like this, to give you the ability, when times turn tough, you're never going to get the opportunity. You'll never do it, we'll never have that opportunity. One-half of the state budget, how do you go back to your constituents and say, you know, half the state budget I don't have to worry about, because it just automatically happens. How do you do that? My schools are important to me, and we have this debate. Let me tell you, the hardest thing we did in the 413 fight, when you were out doing those meetings, the hardest thing was to stand up and say, trust us because we use our good judgment, and we do and I believe that. This amendment gives you that judgment to exercise. This is not about bad ag economy. This isn't about an agenda of an administration, this isn't about many other things. It would be a lot easier for me today to just sit down and never bring this amendment, and we wouldn't have to look at the issue. At some point in time we're going to have to address what do I do, because I don't have enough money to go around. This morning don't...don't give up your positions as state senators, you need to keep that position. And that's a hard position, it's uncomfortable. Part of being that is looking at the entire state. You're going to have to make that tough decision some day. This is going to give you the flexibility to do that. Remember when we talked about not giving up flexibility and not giving away the state prerogative. Right now, if you keep all of state aid, at least the equalization aid,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: ...under this, you're giving away all of your flexibility and you're giving away your prerogative. I don't think that's the right thing to do. This holds those schools, it gives them the out, it gives the...it keeps that predictability. What does it make them do? It makes them watch and share in the state budget, from February to the end of session. What does everybody else do, including you? You watch the state budget from February to the end of session. I hope you'd vote for this amendment. This is not the end of the world. In fact, this strengthens your positions as state senator. I hope you keep that prerogative.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. The house