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LB 36

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: ...so we can make sure we're...we're on Amendment 1595. Do you wish to take Amendment 1595 up?

SENATOR QUANDAHL: That...actually, withdraw 1595 and substitute AM 1639.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Okay. We will withdraw Amendment 1595. If there's no objection to the substitution, then we'll take up Amendment 1639. Senator Quandahl, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR QUANDAHL: That's...probably, just to give a little bit of background on Amendment 1639, I'd like to read it into the record to give some people just an idea of what it would do. And quite frankly, the idea for this came forth that if valuations in any county, in particular Douglas County, are going to rise, we thought that it should only be fair and equitable that the county-wide levy drop by a proportional amount. And that was the catalyst behind the filing of the amendment. And I guess I'll just read you the amendment. It's a fairly short one. "Beginning in 1999, if the final adjusted value of a political subdivision located in a county with a population of three hundred (thousand) inhabitants or more provided by the county assessor pursuant to section 13-509 for the current year increases over the immediate preceding year for reasons other than new construction, additions of improvements, or additions of omitted property, the tax levy of the political subdivision shall be reduced proportionately to the increase in actual valuation. The purpose of this section is to maintain the revenue derived from property taxes at the same amount as it would have been had no such increase in the actual value occurred. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit an increase in property taxes levied if such increase is due to a budget increase by a political subdivision or voter-approved levy override." And so, in a nutshell, what is behind this and why I would urge the adoption of this particular amendment is...what's brought to light is probably the action of the TERC board, most recently, that has indicated that it was going to force the County Assessor of Douglas County, Mr. Morrissey, to raise the valuations in Douglas County an additional eight percent over what he has already proposed to raise individually. The problem with the TERC board's proposed