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LB 36

ruling that we see is that it goes only to residential property and it doesn't take into consideration some inequities in the valuations of other property located in the county, specifically commercial property in particular. And all we would like to do is we would like to, if at all possible, would be to try to impress on the TERC board that our new County Assessor in Douglas County, Mr. Morrissey, be given a chance to allow his plan to work to reassess the entire county of Douglas County. And so that, basically, in a nutshell, is what the amendment to LB 36 is...what we're trying to accomplish with that. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. Senator Kiel on the Quandahl amendment.

SENATOR KIEL: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Obviously, what we would like to do is establish some record about what we think probably is not the best way to go about making property tax valuations fair and equal. I have always felt that across-the-board valuation increases did not accomplish equality or equity within properties, because, of course, you maintain the same inequity between properties. Because if you have a property that is valued at between 92 and 100 percent of market value and you have another property that's perhaps only been valued at 50 percent, you still maintain the same inequity between the properties. You don't do anything to make sure the properties' valuations are similar; you only increase everybody across the board, and in some cases very unfairly treat property owners who have always been paying their fair share. Another aspect of what is being proposed by TERC is the fact that they have chosen to take up only an across-the-board valuation increase for residential property as opposed to commercial property. Now, we have some...a fair amount of history with regard to what's happened with commercial property in the county of Douglas. And I have hopefully...excuse me, I haven't got this handed out. I am about to hand out a newspaper story that talked about the failure of the Assessor's Office for a number of years to do anything with regard to commercial property valuation. There is a tremendous disparity between residential valuation and commercial valuation, and the only thing I see happening if TERC would proceed with the increasing of the across-the-board