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LB 271

to...excuse me...the taxpayers. And I believe that this amendment, payment in lieu of taxes, can do just that. It will be able to allow local governments to come up with ways to pay for the actual expenses of local governing bodies, whether it's fire protection districts, or counties, whatever the case may be. Each situation will be different, and I think we need to be responsive to that. I think some arguments against this measure...they might say that we're asking the county assessors to do too much in judging fair market value, or whatever amounts might be drafted on the local level. But I would suggest that it's easy for the county assessor to come up with fair market value on a lease. We're talking about that here. We've already asked for fair market value. They determine fair market value when they assess properties, on varying levels. And I think they can come up with fair market value for a lease when these situations might come up. I urge your support in this amendment, and I hope that we can adopt it soon. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Those wishing to speak to the amendment are Senators Wickersham, Senator Chris Peterson, Senator Raikes, Senator Vrtiska, Senator Byars, and Senator Don Pederson. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Landis made a couple of interesting points, none of which I find very persuasive in the context of policy. One of them is that if you don't give me relief, I'm going to sue you, and I'm going to win. I'm a lawyer. I've never advised a client to lie over when that kind of an ultimatum was given to me. I usually tell them to gather up and we'll see what happens. Gather up and we'll see what happens. Don't do business that way. Now, Senator Landis also gave us an interesting example of the state of Nebraska using public property in a way that he would characterize as for a private use. And I think he wanted you to believe that somehow that example pertained to this bill. But it doesn't, because Senator Raikes's bill doesn't exempt that transponder from taxation if it would be taxable under LB 271. LB 860 doesn't do that. The principles of LB 271 would be applied to that transponder. So it doesn't do anything in the context of this bill. Whatever we did with LB 860 was a financial decision for us; that's true. But it's the same kind of decisions that other airports are making and other