

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 881

Legislature. Wanted to say a couple words basically about LB 881. When Senator Crosby spoke this morning, I thought I agree with you 100 percent, Senator Crosby. The rebate was something that I was looking forward to as a taxpayer and for the constituency because I believed it had at least a sense of getting something back, and it was this amendment, the committee amendments that came up, that has changed that and I will be supporting the committee amendments, but only because that's all that's on the plate. The bottom line, before I can go home as a legislator and go on the parades and answer the questions of the constituency about property taxes, the bottom line isn't going to change a whole lot. In fact, in my district, I think the bottom line is still going to go up because of the reevaluations. And I don't have much of my district in OPS. Most of my district is in Millard and Elkhorn and Bennington, so there's not a big bond issue, but they're growing and, with that growth formula that's in the school aids and the property...the lid bill, it's just going to go up. And to see a little credit on your property tax statement isn't going to show because people look at the bottom line. So I don't think that, anyway, this senator has anything to strut about saying what I've done on property taxes. They think we've made some moves. In the last few years there's been a little bit here and a little bit there, and this is a little bit and I'm going to be supporting it for that reason. But I think to really do what we need to do is we're going to have to take another look on our whole taxation picture. And I know Senator Brashear has offered something the last couple years that I find very interesting that we haven't even taken a great look at, but we've got to take a look at almost anything I think we can that's going to show some difference and make a difference to these people. I've got people building homes in my district who pay more property tax than I do house payments and I've got...and can afford it, and I've got those who are living in their homes that they worked for all their lives that are losing them because they can't on fixed incomes and cannot afford to pay their property tax. There's still something drastically wrong in our picture here, and I'm no tax expert by any way, shape, or form, but say we cannot by any way, shape, or form consider this a big move, but it is a move. And I believe having the check in the hand would have at least been a psychic feeling of getting something back from the government. Thank you, and I return the