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LB 32

on commercial property and homeowners' property. And we were not allowed to do that. Now, we were told that by the time we were able to kind of enter this fray, that all they were considering was whether or not valuations on homeowners' property should be considered, and that commercial property had nothing to do with this debate. Well, I submit to you that this is a great part of the debate, because now Douglas County is faced with trying to provide for some sort of relief from the...from this valuation increase, and they will have a very, very difficult time of it, because they may not lower the rate just on homeowners' property taxes. They must lower the rate on everyone's taxes, if they choose to do so, which means commercial property owners will be paying even less of their burden than they ought to. And I would ask that the body would indeed vote yes on this amendment so we can begin to see some equity in this process. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Kiel. Senator Lynch, please.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yeah, Mr. President, members, I thought it important right now to make clear that the purpose of LB 32...so we don't lose sight of it...was to provide some funds for the TERC board so that member of the TERC board that represented one of the three criteria when the board was created, is from quite a ways out in the state and should have the opportunity to receive expenses, just like other members of the TERC board, to come back and forth to the meetings. Now, that being said, I don't think any of us who have any concerns about policy or procedure want to offend that at all. I'm not quite sure if this amendment were adopted what it would mean in the way of a veto, but on the other hand, I'm...I signed the resolution, I signed the petition, and I signed the letters, because I, too, am concerned with the values for tax purposes in Douglas County. I want to reaffirm, though, the fact that our present assessor is really trying to do a good job and get us out of this mess. The old assessor was reelected, actually, a number of times, very easily. And why not? He made sure that people didn't have the value that actually reflected what it should be for tax purposes. And it's not too hard to get elected when you take care of people like that. And those people that were taken care of understand that. They know who they are. The problem we