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in our current constitution. If you look at the constitution, it was just recently amended to actually create the TERC. "By January 1, 1997, there shall be a Tax Equalization and Review Commission." It goes on to say...and this is in Article IV, Section 28: "The commission shall have power to review and equalize assessments of property for taxation within the state", and I think that includes the entire state and not just county-specific. I would also say that as of last year, we've also attached to our bill of rights, in Article I, Section 3, the equal protection clause. And so by my mind, what this amendment is simply doing is leveling the playing field, not only for the people in Douglas County, but for the citizens of the entire state. The equal protection clause states, "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law, nor be denied equal protection of the laws." All the amendment does...and I do have to admit that I forgot the second part of the amendment, which went to the...an order of the commission requiring a decrease or increase in value. All the amendment does is that it says that...it does not stop the TERC from making or ordering a valuation increase or decrease, it does not stop the TERC from ordering a reappraisal of an entire county, all it does is it requires the commission to first make a finding that all other classes or subclasses of property are within the acceptable range across the state. And I think that means to me, equality under the law. And that is what our equal protection clause and that's what our state motto is all about. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you. Senator Wehrbein, please. Senator Wehrbein waives off. Senator Suttle.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. You know, the electorate out there thinks that we are in charge of property taxes, and we aren't, but we try to constantly tweak the property taxes. We try to put lids on them, we try to do something about TERC, we try to...we're always trying to do something about property taxes. So therefore, the public thinks that we control and do property taxes...we assess them, we do everything dealing with property taxes...when in reality, we don't have any jurisdiction over how much property taxes are charged. We're not...we don't receive any property taxes. We really...I wonder why we got into this