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SENATOR SUTTLE: ...to alleviate the problems that were caused in the last 20 years. You cannot fix a problem that's been going on for 20 years in three months. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

SENATOR KIEL: Thank you, Senator Coordsen, members of the Legislature. If the body should so decide to return this to Select File for specific amendment, we do have an amendment to the amendment that would strike "state" and add instead "the same county", so that we would alleviate the...what seems to be the primary concern, and that is that this would be statewide as opposed to across the same county. But I want to kind of perhaps echo Senator Suttle's comments, and that is, of course, that although the state neither collects property taxes nor expends property taxes...and in fact, we are specifically prohibited from collecting property taxes in the constitution...there still, of course, is a very, very widespread perception that we do indeed do something with property taxes. And that...when people are hit with their property tax bills, they tend to think in terms of the State Legislature being the one that's responsible for this, instead of, obviously, their local governmental units, who are the ones who collect property taxes and who are the ones who expend property taxes. And so for the record, I want to kind of lay out a few facts with regard to property taxes. And as I said before, number one, the state does not collect property taxes. Number two, since we don't collect property taxes, we don't spend property taxes. I would like to tell the people of Nebraska, and specifically the people in Douglas County, taxpayers in Douglas County, that they need to hold their local governments responsible for how much property taxes get collected and how much property taxes...how much property taxes are spent. If they want a certain level of services in...from their local government, and they are then willing to pay for those services, then they ought not, probably, to complain about the amount of property taxes that they pay. If they're willing to see less services and therefore pay less property taxes as a result, that's what they ought to say. Or, what they ought to do then is say, we're...we like the services that we're getting, but we think we're paying too much property taxes for those