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handed out a little sheet here that I don't know if it makes a lot of sense to you. But first of all, let me commend Senator Raikes for bringing this issue in front of us. And I can tell you that in my legislative district about half the students will be attending school in districts that are sparse. It has really saved a lot of the small schools in my legislative district who have really very little opportunity to do anything more efficient. I want to tell you about a success story in south central Nebraska, and you probably read it in the paper, too. And I know we all have our own little stories, so I hope this doesn't bore you too much. But last Monday evening, Senator Kremer and I had the opportunity to sign something that is a big step for people in south central Nebraska. The communities of Guide Rock, Superior, Lawrence, Nelson, and the school of Sandy Creek signed a unification agreement. And I can tell you that there are four high schools involved in that now and three of them had voted to override the levy. Now I believe in two cases the schools were too small to operate efficiently, and in another case a school system that had consolidated, in this case Sandy Creek, started out with a consolidated enrollment of about 500 students. And, as typical in rural Nebraska, they are depopulating. And I think they're down to about 350 students. Well, they built up some tremendous programs there, but as their student enrollment keeps dropping they have to let go of programs, and it's very painful in a school system that size. The unified system will operate one less high school system; they will go to three systems and they will operate four grade schools. So in essence, compared to where they were three years ago, instead of having five high schools and five grade schools, they'll have three high schools and four grade schools. So they're really giving up some of their hometown identity there and that's painful for some people. One of the reasons that we were able to pull this unification off is because this system would become sparse. And I can tell you a lot of schools are looking at ways to become sparse. And I totally agree with Senator Raikes, this thing is exploding and getting out of hand. I'm not quite sure the \$300 difference is enough; I'm willing to listen to arguments for that, because Senator Raikes in his formula does recognize smallness. Maybe it's time for us to represent...to recognize the number of sites there are to operate, because I will tell you that a system that covers an area much bigger than one county cannot operate as efficient as