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assumptions do not play out then the \$89 million number will change regardless of what we do with LB 1107. I don't...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Wickersham, your light is next, if you wish to continue. Those also wishing to speak are Senators Chambers, Wehrbein, and Beutler. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, one of the aspects of the bill that is brought to light by Senator Kristensen's questions is that the calculation of state aid for purposes of the state budget, that is calculation of state aid in years beyond the current certification amount would be more certain, would be more certain and I think, in addition to being more...being more certain, it would have stabilized. Because it causes the calculation to be made on the basis of needs rather than a combination of needs and valuation growth. Now, I've probably just lost a bunch of people and confused you when I said that. I'll be happy to try to explain that result to you if you...if you are interested in knowing, but it will, in my view and I think the view of others, actually result in some easier calculations, more stable calculations, more predictable calculations of the amount of state aid that we would need in future years. And Senator Kristensen is correct in...and Senator Raikes in asserting that this is essentially a property tax relief bill. It is that. It is that explicitly, and it does set for us an objective that property taxes, on a statewide basis, would not be more than 45 percent of needs. That is exactly what it does and that is exactly the policy that I hope that you would adopt. The discussion from Senator Raikes that somehow this is a nonequalized effort is a little astonishing to me and I don't know what relevance it really has, quite frankly. I don't want to be unkind, Senator Raikes, but the levy limits, any levy limit, in accordance with your discussion, would be nonequalizing in some respects. The state aid formula that the state of Nebraska has is a highly equalizing formula, and whatever the results that LB 1107 would dictate, any of those results, in terms of state support, would go back through our formula, which is explicitly an equalization formula. And I've...and I've supported our past efforts at equalizing funding for schools believing, very strongly, that we do have an obligation to be able to provide quality educational