

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. And what is it that you want to avoid, the property tax increase?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: I...I want to avoid the property tax increase that results only because values have grown faster than needs.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And are valuations, evaluations of property, you say valuations. Are evaluations of property and the levying of taxes raising the tax levy, as the songs say, all in the game? Are both of those two things a part of the game?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: I'm having...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Can you have one without the other?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Excuse me? Senator, I'm genuinely having trouble understanding what you're...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: (Laugh) That's not what I intend. Let me ask a question then. Senator Wickersham, what you're really trying to do is cause these local people to pay less money in property taxes. That's what you're interested in, ultimately, isn't it?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So however we cut it, whether we're talking about evaluation or a tax levy, your goal is to have them pay less in property taxes.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Are there people in the farm economy who arrange their affairs in such a way that sometimes they don't have any taxable income, even though they might be land rich?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: It has become increasingly easy to arrange your affairs to meet that objective.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now, if people are in a position where they