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there, and they struggle. They struggle because of LB 806, because the funding mechanism was taken...money was taken away from their district. And we talk all the time about efficiencies of scale. I think when you're talking about efficiencies of scale, you better talk about results, better talk about what's happening, what these kids look like when they get out of those schools, what the dropout rate is. If the school sys...system...if the school system in the majority...in major cities of this state, in the urban areas, were divided into school districts like they are out in rural Nebraska, you'd see an entirely different printout than you see on this thing right here in front of you today because it doesn't even compare, you don't comparison. Comparison's pale with what rural Nebraska students can do in their school settings. You can't begin to compete efficiencywise here in the urban school districts. You have a dropout rate that's unbelievable. We have no dropout rate in rural Nebraska. Leave us alone, folks. If you have some idea you want to make some changes, make your changes in urban Nebraska, but leave us alone in rural Nebraska. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I rise in opposition to this amendment. To be rather forthright and also perhaps give us a practical picture of what I think this is, I do believe that this is an avenue to force consolidation that I think is the wrong direction to take. In Scotts Bluff County, of which I'm most familiar, there are five K-12 districts and six Class I districts. But let's...let's say that logistically speaking the Class I districts would be forced to merge with the two largest districts, perhaps, in the county for geographic purposes. There are two parochial schools in the community, as well. Pretty strong right now but that always remains to be seen down the road. And if we had forced consolidation, we know we can only save money by closing programs, closing buildings and laying off staff. That's the only way, historically speaking as Senator Wickersham mentioned, that money can be saved. Well, the physical assets of the larger districts, even as large as they are, they are not large enough to take in all of the students from the Class I school districts and the parochial schools. So what would happen? They'd need to build