

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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represents poor state policy, and we are here as state senators. So I'm going to vote no. And, Mr. President, when we get around to voting, I'm going to ask for a roll call vote.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. There are no further lights. Senator Wickersham, did you wish to close? Do you wish to close? You may, if you wish to. If you don't want to, that's fine.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, all right, thank you, Mr. President. I'm...I guess I'm not remembering the structure appropriately here.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You don't have to close if you don't want to.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: No, all right, but I think I will, as long as it isn't...as long as this isn't a closing close or something like that. Members of the body, the discussion today and in prior occasions on this bill has taken turns that surprise me. People talk about a commitment by the state of Nebraska to education, to K-12 education. Imagine, can you imagine a worse policy for this Legislature to adopt than a commitment to K-12 education in this state? What worse commitment could we possibly make? And what worse policy commitment could we possibly make than to say that we want K-12 education to be funded on a percentage of property taxes that might be acceptable to our constituents, who have consistently told us that they want to reduce property taxes and schools are still the largest users of property taxes? So by addressing the issue of property taxes in the largest user of property taxes, and supporting K-12 education, wouldn't we have, in effect, resolved the conundrum that Senator Suttle was presenting to herself and to you? There is no conundrum. We have time and time again in this body decided to support adequate funding for K-12 education. We have decided time and time again that we need to find ways to produce property tax relief on an ongoing basis. LB 1107 involves elements of all of that, it involves greater predictability from the state's standpoint of the appropriation that is necessary to support K-12 education, at least the portion of it that the state supports aside from property taxes and, in addition, for those of you who want to make future adjustments in state aid to schools, it provides the mechanism