

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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Comparative Analysis". I think most of you in your offices, certainly all of you, I think, in your offices have a full copy of the research that was done by the Department of Agricultural Economics, but we...we included this as a handout in a brief way so you can see on page 3 of the handout, it was page 6 of the book, a comparison of the top 25 states plus Wyoming, simply because Wyoming was a border state, with the most recent ranking of available...that was available to us. Now, having said that, this is an issue that the Legislature has been chasing for, oh mercy, more than 30 years trying to find a way that the proper...that the tax system followed the ability to pay. The Legislature, a few years ago, thought they had found a system that would value agricultural property on its value for producing food. That system was found to be unconstitutional and the Legislature then reenacted that language with a provision that the concerns of the Supreme Court would be taken care of. A significant problem that exists is that under our current system of valuing agricultural land there isn't a good way for assessors to make a determination as to whether, in fact, the use of a piece of property for the growing of crops, the producing of timber, or the grazing of livestock is the primary use that the purchaser put forth for it...that or if that's only incidental. We have a provision in our constitution, and this was what the original green copy of LB 1124 was based on, and the committee amendment will be based on it also, and that is what we've commonly come to call the greenbelt statute, the greenbelt provision, and it says that the Legislature may enact laws to provide that the value of land actively devoted to agricultural or horticultural use shall, for property tax purposes, be that value which such land has for agricultural or horticultural use without regard to any value which such land might have for other purpose or uses. And that is what our special land use valuations are rooted in and why I will propose to you now with the...will move now, Mr. President, to the committee amendments.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Coordsen, as Vice Chairman of the Revenue Committee, you are recognized to open on the committee amendments. (AM2845, Legislative Journal page 1071.)

SENATOR COORDSEN: In case the members of the body were interested, here in balmy downtown Lincoln, Nebraska, that the