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LB 1138

from the counties, it's my understanding. This did not come from the counties. They did not work on what they felt would be the best way to provide an equalization issue. Some counties may be supporting it. I know some counties have questions about a change of this nature, not having more process with it. So with that, I would...my suggestion would be that we not vote for this bill. Maybe the amendment helps, but that just puts off a year the implementation and creates more a difficult process to come back with.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, I'm sorry that we're talking about this bill as some kind of an NRD bill which it would not be, of course, with the amendments. And I'm also sorry that we were not able to reach agreement with the NRDs about how to distribute their aid pool. But the distribution of their aid pool right now is completely backwards. We give the most money out of that aid pool to those who had the largest tax asking, and that doesn't promote any kind of efficiency either. As far as the bill and the components of it and how we would do equalization, only one component of the bill touches on infrastructure. It's interesting that Senator Beutler is apparently opposed to infrastructure. It has been...if I'm ever willing to put any money anywhere, it's into infrastructure. Infrastructure is what we need first in order to make this a viable state. The only component of infrastructure in this bill is for roads, and I don't know which Senator...which roads Senator Beutler wants us to close out in the counties, but all the infrastructure that's in this bill is roads. One of the components in the formula that's in the bill is expressly designed to address people, poor people. The notion is that if you have poor in your county, you have to deliver a higher level of services. I can't help it if Lancaster County doesn't have poor people in it, and I'd be happy if there weren't poor people in Sioux County and in Dawes County, and I'd be happy if there weren't poor people in Lincoln County and in Arthur County. And I imagine those people would be happy if they weren't poor and