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actually mimics language that we had last year and I think that the intent of the committee amendment is very, very plain, and certainly we want language in our constitution to be very, very plain. When we are looking at programs at the local level that are funded by property taxes, especially when we are looking at schools because of our equalization formula, I think we have to be very cognizant of the equity issue and not look at a...or create a situation where, in fact, we can create very, very dissimilar resources for the local districts and local school children. So I think this is a good amendment and I fully support it. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Raikes, on Revenue Committee amendments.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I'm going to...I don't know what I'm going to do on the committee amendment. I guess I'll talk more about what is both the committee amendment and the bill and the idea. If you look at the committee statement, this was a something to one, and I was the one, and I want to explain a little bit about why. And I think the idea has been eloquently presented, both by Senator Redfield and Senator Landis, that we're presuming that you, as a person qualifying for a homestead exemption, are going to be persuaded, influencing your vote, by the fact that you may not have to pay for some or all of it--a reasonable proposition and certainly one that I can't fully argue against. What I would tell you though is that, in the case of schools, we support, we the state, we the citizens of the state, support local school districts in the operational budget of the school. Our policy is that school buildings are a local issue. They're to be supported locally. So it seems to me to be contrary for us to say it's okay for you to support the operation of your school but not a building. And I understand that we're not necessarily saying that you cannot build a building, but we're somehow putting that decision on a lower level, one that we as a state are going to back away from. I don't think that's a good idea. In effect, the idea is that for local taxes there are those which are levied through a representative that you elect that are okay. The ones that you vote for directly are, in a sense, not okay. Those are something that we as state really