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FLOOR DEBATE

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won't face it. We've been trying to shift it, and we made some progress. Maybe the... Senator Hartnett mentioned, the amount of property tax has not gone down. But what is property tax relief? Maybe property tax relief is paying only a two percent increase rather than a ten percent increase in the year. Maybe it's a decrease. But if you look at the percentage of state aid to schools that comes from property tax against state aid or something else, the percentage, the ratio, has dropped on property tax. We've made progress in the last few years, and I think we need to continue to do that. And I would just hate to see it go back, shift back. And I think we're seeing it in other areas already. We've cut state aid to municipalities and our cities. We've cut state aid to counties. We've cut state aid to NRDs.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR KREMER: All these things are shifting back to property tax. And I think this would just be another one that would take it down that road. So I cannot support that. Reluctantly, I will support LB 540. As Senator Raikes had mentioned, it is for a two-year period. It's kind of optional. They would not have to take all that. Last year, we allowed the school boards, with a supermajority, to exceed their levy limit by the amount of what the cut was. This is in a little different form. But I would rather do it that way than make this...make it permanent, try to figure out who's farming land, who isn't, how much credit goes back, how much doesn't. I think it gets too complicated. And I will not support this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kremer. Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I, likewise, am one of those Revenue Committee members that I guess it was unanimous to strip this out of the bill. and I will not support putting it back in now, obviously. What...it's interesting. I just came from speaking to a group of independent business people downstairs. And imagine what came up. (Laugh) The transfer of responsibility for funding K-12 education back on the property tax. Not a popular item or issue out in my area, I can guarantee you. The savings that Senator