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FLOOR DEBATE

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reaction was not positive for many of us. We embarked upon an effort several years ago to try to decrease the emphasis on property tax. Our property tax in the state still ranks much higher than any of your other taxes. Compared to other states, we're way up there in terms of our property tax. And so the idea didn't seem necessarily like it was something we should do. But after the time that we've been here and listening to the discussion over the last several weeks as this has developed, I guess I've concluded that in the situation that we're in we're going to have to spread the...we're going to have to spread the effort to pay for as much as we can of our shortfall amongst as many taxpayers as we possibly can, and that will include some, unfortunately, it will include some effect on all of us as property taxpayers. I guess secondly, when we go back to establishing the \$1.00 and the \$1.10, as we did initially, and then it was phased in from \$1.10, then down to \$1.00, those numbers were not scientifically picked. There was some rationale to it in terms of the levies that we established for counties, cities, and we hoped that most people would not have to have more than a two-dollar-per-hundred mill levy. And that was kind of looking at NRDs and everything, that you would just not have any more situations where you'd have \$3 or \$2.80. One school in my district had over \$2.00, about a \$2.25 levy at one time not that many years ago. And the idea was to get down to that level, and we've tried and I think we've done as good a job as we can. I think under the circumstances, I'm going to support the suggestion to go to \$1.04 for this coming two years. I do have a question, though, if Senator Raikes would respond. And it may be an unfair question and if he needs time to get this information I would understand. Senator Raikes.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, would you respond to a question?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Raikes, we do this for two years. If we keep the formula generally in the same manner that it is, do you have any projection the third year how much money we would need to come up with to fund the formula? Do you have a...