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charge, and saying, even though we didn't want to raise our levies, you're going to do it...you're going to allow us...our school board to do it anyway?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, would you respond?

SENATOR RAIKES: It's a fair point, Senator. But keep in mind, it is still a decision of the local school board.

SENATOR VRTISKA: I understand that.

SENATOR RAIKES: Now, if you've got a voter group that is opposed to the actions of the local school board, that is a local issue. I assume they can get that resolved through elections and so on. The other thing is, keep in mind the history. We've been now at a \$1.00 maximum levy, I think for two years? Or three? We were at \$1.10. We went now down to \$1.00...or, we're now at \$1.00. This is...I don't think anybody is denying this is backtracking. This is something we'd really rather not have to do. But the current fiscal situation demands it. We're not going back to \$1.10. We're going...if the amendment is adopted, we'd be going to \$1.05. And as Senator Bromm pointed out, hopefully in the near future we could again return to the \$1.00 that we currently are.

SENATOR VRTISKA: I understand that. And I appreciate it. And by the way, I'm going to support this, simply because, as you indicated, I don't think we've got a lot of choice. The only point I'm trying to make is, the school district that I'm talking about are in rural areas where the economy has been terrible, as you probably...well, maybe you don't know. But down where I come from, finances on the farm are pretty bad. And I think that's why these were turned down, the fact that people didn't think they could afford at this particular time. They're kind of like we are up here. They want those services, but they're not sure how they want to pay for them. And those people say, why couldn't we use sales tax, income tax, all other kind of taxes? It's still taxes. But the point I'm trying to make is, I understand these people's frustration, because they said no when they asked to override in the community, and now we as a Legislature have said, yes, you can raise taxes locally.