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levy and if you, the way I understand it, if you're a municipality, the average was less, so that tells me that they were asking and requesting for less dollars from their property owners than other communities. And for being very conscientious of property owners and not asking for a high levy, the formula is going to reduce their amount of state aid by 20 percent of each cent of levy differentiation. Excuse me for my pronunciation. But there again it looks to me like communities that have been very conservative and have watched their budget, they're getting penalized again, unless this isn't the way it's supposed to be. I'm probably not in the best of mood today. This afternoon, I hate to say it, but they have an outbreak of mad cow disease in Canada, and I hope that doesn't come to this Legislature at this present time. So with that, I would like to address one question to Senator Raikes, please.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, would you respond, please?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Senator Raikes, my observation and my comments, are they correct or am I wrong about the amount of funds going to municipalities that have been conservative and have had a lower levy for their property tax?

SENATOR RAIKES: Senator, I may not have heard all your comments on that. If you were comparing them, like, to county governments for example, even with this amendment cities' state aid, state aid to cities, would go up over the no-cut situation, whereas for counties it would go down. It will go down substantially.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: But in the portion of your amendment, it states that the amount that for municipalities goes according to the average of your levy, that was assessed towards your property owners. If you were lower than the average of all the municipalities, then you receive a percentage of 20 percent less percent of valuation or percent of levy. Is that correct?

SENATOR RAIKES: That's correct, Senator Stuthman, and that's not my doing. That's the way the law is now. That's the way