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SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Let me respond to a couple of the comments that have been made. Senator Schimek raised the point about this being a new public policy at the last moment. I don't deny that there is a point to be made there. On the other hand, a very important counterpoint is that this body decided to go ahead with an expanded sales tax base that directly impacts city revenues. And so I don't know if there's such a thing as a justification, but I think it's a reasonable point to make in regard to the discussion of when you consider ideas and whether or not you go ahead with them. Let me just mention a couple other points. Some cities that are affected by this roll-over thing...in fact, the ones that probably have some of the bigger dollar amounts...are the cities of Omaha, Norfolk, and Kearney. A couple of points about that. Some of the information I think you received from representatives of those cities suggest to you that this is our money, and we want our money back. The premium...the insurance premium tax is really our, the city's, money. We expect you to give us our money. The sales tax collection fee is money that we pay, so we should get that money back. Well, it's an interesting idea, but, as you well understand, contrasts very sharply with what we do with most all state revenues. Those revenue streams as a result of state statute, state policy, the state implements the collection fee on the sales tax, in fact incurs costs to collect those funds and distribute them, so the 3 percent fee is instituted thereby. I think it's simply revenues that come available to the state, and the state makes the decision, the Legislature makes the decision about where those monies go. There is the next question of, how is this money used? And you've heard a number of comments that, boy, if you do this, you are going to raise local property taxes. We checked. Of those three cities I mentioned--Omaha, Norfolk, and Kearney--none of those cities budgeted any money from this roll-off. As I mentioned to you, they were so-called warned as to how much money would come available. In the case of Omaha, I think it was something under \$300,000, \$296,000. They have a zero item in their budget for that amount. If they have zero in their budget, how in the world can that be used to reduce property taxes? It simply is not. You go ahead and collect enough property taxes to meet the