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which is very important to the state of Nebraska. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Raikes, followed by Senator Bourne, on AM3199.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I wanted to comment to share my understanding, or lack thereof, on the issue regarding property taxes. I think Senator Stuhr was on the right track when she said this would be up to a 1 cent additional levy, and let me try to explain at least how I understand the mechanism. Suppose you're an NRD and you spent a million dollars in the previous year, the base year, if you will, for projects that qualify under the...under LB 962. And let's suppose that in order to implement LB 962, you need to spend an additional \$500,000, you need to go up \$500,000. Now let's say also that part of that \$500,000 would be accounted for by normal budget growth and, to make things simple, let's just ignore that for the moment. But you need an additional \$500,000. Under the bill, as we've discussed it in the Revenue Committee and advanced it, the NRD would get the additional budget authority it needs to spend the money. All right? Now, part of that money would come from state sources. That's what we're talking about with the...either the General Fund or Environmental Trust or some combination thereof of money. The rest of it would come from additional levy, property tax money by the NRD. The point is that the NRD would simply have the authority to budget...or to collect the amount of money they need to fund the program. So for most NRDs they are well within their levy limit now; there would be no additional levy. All the 1 cent says is that if they do need to levy additional for to have a higher levy in order to collect this budgeted amount of money, they can only go 1 cent higher. So some of them may not be able to fully fund the budgeted amount, but nobody would...no NRD, that is, would be able to levy an additional cent if they didn't need that property tax money to fund the additional budget amount, given what the state is already supplying. So again, that's somewhat confusing, I understand, but I think that's the way this is intended to work. The NRDs, the driver here is what they need, the budgeted amount, in order to fund these projects. And you take from the budgeted amount any additional money that they would get through state sources,