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FLOOR DEBATE

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continue, in fact, through the next year of this biennium. So...and that's shown here, of course. If we change either to \$1.05 or go from \$1.05 on to a \$1.10, that would come in place for the 2005-2006 school year. And as you pointed out, we certify aid for the 2005-2006 school year next February 1. If we did nothing this session, then it's very unlikely that the certification on February 1 would be one that the state would have the money to fund. So it's, as you then also pointed out, chances are you would have to recertify later in next year's session. And that, I would just add quickly, it poses some difficulty on schools in their financial planning. They simply don't know what monies to count on.

SENATOR BAKER: I understand. I thank you for your answer, Senator Raikes. I do understand that it would create a hardship on budgeting as far as school districts are concerned. I'm concerned with what we're doing to the taxpayers here, though, by going to \$1.10. We're obviously going backward from the process and the procedures we've used in the past, trying to get away from property tax. I also want to point out that valuations, I believe off the top of my head, statewide increased between 9 and 10 percent last year. So that's also, to me, a new source of revenue, even at \$1.05. If you take \$1.05 times that increase, that's a lot of new tax money that can be generated. I also hear the argument that we can give the authority to go to \$1.10 and plug it into the state aid formula but they won't necessarily use it. My experience on the practical side of this says they use it, they took it. And I think that there's still some efficiencies out there in the education community that can be made. I know there's a lot of mergers and consolidations going on out in my area, voluntarily. I think that can happen more across the state. So I, for one, not wanting to sneak up...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR BAKER: ...and surprise anybody on this, but I don't anticipate being able to support going to \$1.10. I just, I don't see that happening. I think it's...we're going the wrong way and I don't want to send that signal at this time. I may have to support \$1.10 come next session, that's a different time