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it has to be expended for that period of time. I believe that we can let the whole works ride for a year and if those school districts need the money, they have the authority to raise their levies and increase their revenue. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Louden. (Visitors introduced.) Ahead with discussion, Senator Vrtiska, followed by Senator Don Pederson and others.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Early on, Senator Cudaback talked, and talked about this is a difficult deal, and certainly I agree with him this is a difficult issue. I don't think anybody that's talked here this morning that I've heard is opposed to education, to providing a quality education for our youth as they go up through the years of the educational process. So I don't think anybody is really saying that we shouldn't do this, we shouldn't do this so that we would stop education. But I've heard others, and certainly I tend to agree, that all school districts have the ability. If the taxpayers in that district feel they want to add additional tax on themselves, they can do it. It's interesting because of all the e-mails and the letters and the phone calls I've got over the past few weeks that relate to this particular issue, almost unanimously they've said, no, they don't want their taxes to be raised any more, they don't want property taxes to go up any more. As all of us know, without being told, that we're in a stressful period with the lack of decent crops and all of a sudden now the price of grain has risen and the price of other livestock, but we're coming out of a period when there's been a difficult time for production agriculture to survive. So what does that mean? Well, it means it's more and more difficult to have your taxes increased to put another burden on that's already heaped on a lot of people. And my fear is that we're going to drive some young people right out of the production agriculture field because they don't feel they can continue to have their taxes increased almost annually. So it is a difficult issue for all of us to rationalize and decide which is the best step to take. I understand what Senator Wehrbein is trying to do. He's trying to help some of these school districts that are having a difficult time also. They're having to make some drastic cuts already, and this is going to add to