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FLOOR DEBATE

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rate. In fact, that's a doggone good rate of growth. Our problem is we just have too many things on autopilot, whether it's state aid to schools or Medicaid payments and so on we can't seem to get ourselves...our arms around this thing. In the meantime, we're saying, well, let's just get it out of the state's budget and we'll throw it back on the local property tax owners...property taxpayers. I don't buy into that. I'm somewhat like Senator Brashear. We're going to have to solve this thing long term. We can't keep throwing these ideas, well, we'll transfer this or do that or raid a cash fund or something. We've got an inherent problem with our structure here. We're growing at 3.9 percent and can't seem to make ends meet. So I simply am not going to support the \$1.10 property tax levy. I want to go back a little bit about what we were talking about last time I was on the mike and that was the rate of growth of valuations. We did...and there's some interesting analogies here, I was paying attention when Senator Stuthman was talking about corn populations and so on. You know, you don't plant heavy, thick populations of corn when you've got no subsoil moisture. Well, we're so bad out west we're not going to plant corn. We aren't going to plant it this year. We're not planting corn. We're planting sorghum and we're going to plant some feed for cattle and hope we raise enough crop there with sorghum and feed that we can keep the cattle that we still have out in that area. So what are we doing? We're adapting. We're going to adapt out there and we're going to make it through this thing. One of these times it's going to start raining again and we won't know how to behave. But we're not going to go out and borrow the money from our banker and say, well, we're going to continue to plant dryland corn at 18,000 plants per acre and so on.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BAKER: We're just not going to plant the corn. We're not going to go ask for that money to buy seed and fertilizer. We're going to use low input costs on milo and so on. So...and I'm just not about to transfer property tax back to people out in the rural area that are hurting so badly. You get west of Kearney and things are not very bright out there, folks. We're survivors and we're realists, but I just am not going to put it