

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 22, 2004 LB 1093

Anhydrous ammonia got penned at \$400 a ton. I bought a lot of it years ago for less than \$100 a ton. Now get up close to \$400 a ton, it's going to get so high that we can't even put it on pretty quick. And seed is the same way. I was on my place for probably 10, 12 years and paid \$11 a bushel for seed. It's \$125 to \$130 a bushel right now for seed and you only get 80,000 kernels. It used to be a bushel, so they even count the kernels out to you. So we're really under stress in agriculture right now so there's no way that we should keep trying to increase it. I realize that the schools are probably in trouble. But like it was said earlier, if they get in trouble bad enough that they can take a vote in their community and they could raise their tax for themselves and do it on their own without us doing it from down here. So again, I'm going to oppose Senator Wehrbein's amendment, and we'll have to see how the committee amendments come out following that and see where we're going to be on that because they will take us on past 2005 if we vote them in. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jones. Senator Beutler, on the Wehrbein amendment to the committee amendments to LB 1093.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, I passed out a chart to you that I hope you'll take a look at. It says "Summary of Major State and Local Taxes" and over in the left-hand column it has the sales taxes and the various sales taxes that we levy in this state, the income tax and the types of income taxes that we levy, and the property taxes, all of the major taxes you'll see listed on the left-hand side. And then in each column it has that particular tax as a percentage of the overall tax burden. And you can see if you look at the top in the year '71-72 when they started keeping figures, if you look down under total property taxes you'll see I circled 55.4. That means property taxes were 55.4 percent of all of the taxes paid. If you look in the next column ten years later, '81-82, property taxes were 45.6 percent. If you move up to '91-92, property taxes had dropped to 36.8 percent. And then you look ten years later, it's 38 percent, starting to creep up a little bit again. And, of course, if we follow through with what's being suggested now and, of course, they'd be even a little higher with what we