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

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SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Senator Landis made a comment that the majority... I think I've got this right, the majority of the people don't know what the Ag Land Valuation Board does. Well, that's probably...no, that's not what he said. He says...anyway, forget Senator Landis. (Laugh) I'll state what I was going to say. The majority of people don't know what the Ag Land Valuation Board does, and that's probably true. How many of you know what any of your elected officials, county, state, local or otherwise, what they do on a day-to-day basis. If your particular area of the state is fairly valued across county lines, then, yes, your Ag Land Valuation Board won't have anything to do. They won't have any duties, there will be no necessity to meet. But if there are problems for, again whatever reason, if there are values that are significantly higher or lower across county lines, that's where the Ag Land Valuation Board comes into effect. No one knows what they do. They're not at the ag land valuation meetings, but they do serve a purpose. They do make sure that across county lines those values are fairly administered and fairly charged. Again, it's a check and balance system. If you look at the committee statement, you will see who the proponents the assessors commission, the county assessors, and a couple of county boards, York and Butler. If you look who is in opposition to the board, it's the Saunders County board; there's some problems that they have recognized; Larry Timm, he's a representative of the Area 5 Land Valuation Board, he has seen that there are some problems, and that board is a very active board; again, Larry Hudkins, who definitely does not need more to do but he said, this is a fairness issue. Also, the Farm Bureau spoke in opposition to this. Farm Bureau is, yes, an insurance company, but it does watch out for farmers' issues, and that is what they are saying, that we need to make sure that values across county lines are in line with each other. Just because you live in Lancaster County, which is close to Lincoln, the values of farm ground are so much higher than they would be if you were in Saunders County, for example, simply because of proximity to Lincoln. There are land sales that in Lancaster County are out of sight, just because they are close to Lincoln; or in Saunders County, just because it is a remote area and it has a stream on it and trees and rocks and makes an ideal hunting area. Those sales must be included because they're, I